



# DERLLYS COURT GOLF CLUB

Llysonnen Road, Carmarthen

MONMOUTH ARCHAEOLOGY

MA17.01

July, 2001

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Monmouth Archaeology was commissioned by Mr. R. Walters to carry out an archaeological evaluation consisting of documentary research and trial excavations at Derllys Court Golf Club, Llysonnen Road, Carmarthen, centred at (NGR SN 359 197). The evaluation was to be carried out in connection with Carmarthenshire County Council planning application No. D4/26410/26 to construct a 9 hole golf course extension. Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology - Heritage Management Project number is 42705.

1.2 A generic example of a brief for an archaeological evaluation was prepared by Louise Austin, Carmarthenshire County Council's archaeological advisors, Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology - Heritage Management (Appendix A) and a specification (Appendix B) was produced by Monmouth Archaeology and found acceptable by the advisors prior to the commencement of work during April, 2001.

1.3 With the agreement of the Council's Archaeological advisors the archaeological evaluation replaced a watching brief proposal which was part of a programme of archaeological work required during the development. It was felt that an archaeological evaluation for this development would be more practical as the groundworks will be spread over some six months. The evaluation will provide detailed information on the archaeological resource of the site and will enable the Local Planning Authority to determine the affect of the proposed development on the archaeological resource.

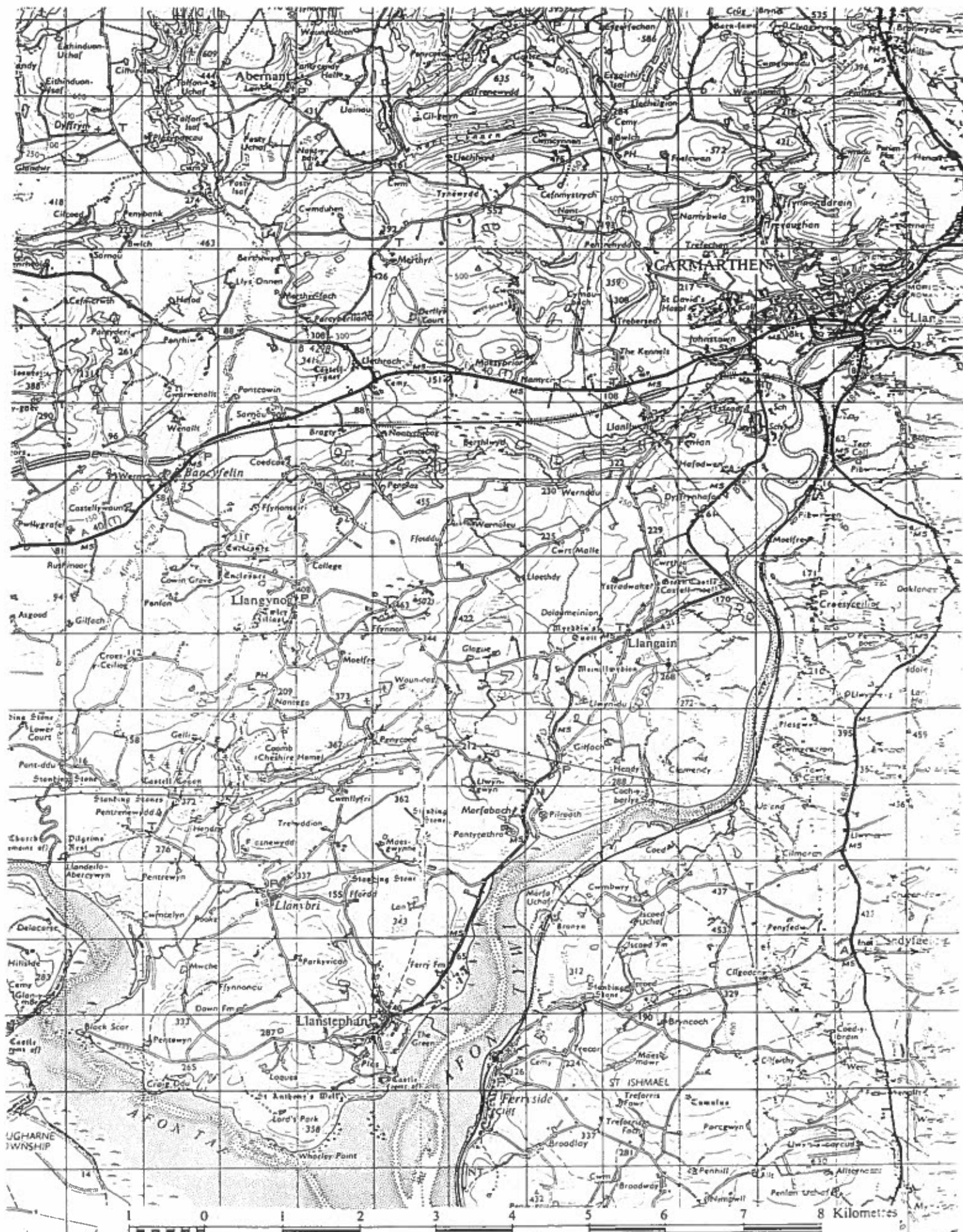
## **2. SOURCES AND METHODS**

2.1 The Sites and Monuments Record held by Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology - Heritage Management at Llandeilo was consulted.

2.2 The indexes were checked and documentary and cartographic sources were examined at the Carmarthen County Records Office.

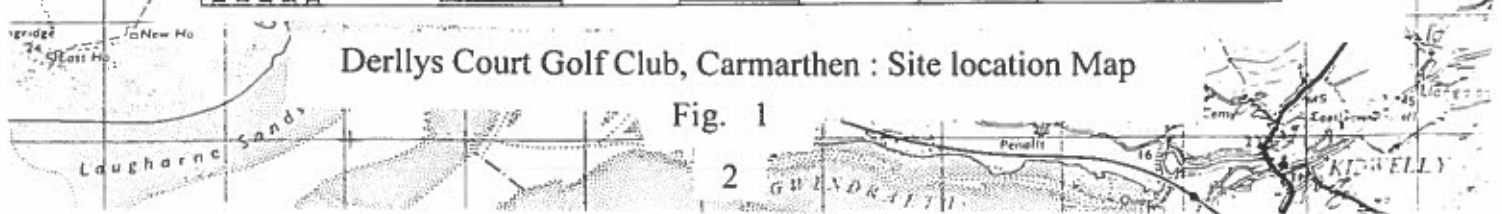
2.3 Cartographic and documentary records were examined at the Department of Manuscripts and Records; the Department of Pictures and Maps and the Department of Printed Books at The National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth.

2.4 Various archaeological journals and publications relating to Carmarthen and its environs were consulted.



Derllys Court Golf Club, Carmarthen : Site location Map

Fig. 1



### 3. THE SITE

3.1 The site of the proposed 9 hole golf course extension is situated on land to the south-east of Derllys Court, Merthyr, Carmarthen at SN 356 211.

3.2 The proposed extension covers land that was previously divided into four fields and rises from some 35m to 95m above sea level.

### 4. DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH

4.1 Documentary research was carried out at the Department of Manuscripts and Records, the Department of Pictures and Maps and the Department of Printed Books at The National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, and at the Carmarthen County Records Office, Carmarthen. The Dyfed Sites and Monuments Record held by Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology - Heritage Management was consulted together with various possibly relevant publications and records.

4.2 No documentary or other records were found that specifically related to the proposed development site. There is no cartographic or other evidence for structures on the site or for any use of the land other than for agriculture.

### 5. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 Originally part of the extensive Derllys estate (the Comote of Derllys) Derllys Court (SN35572013) is first recorded in the first half of the 16th century when it was owned by Lewis Philip Pugh. The Court is thought to have medieval origins as a manor house (SMR, 6618). In the 19th century when it formed part of the Edwinsford Estate, Derllys Court was rebuilt. It is at this time that the Farmstead (SMR, 22254) is recorded as being of some 268 acres. The estate was sold in 1914 and was later described as a flourishing farm (Francis Jones, *Historic Carmarthenshire Homes*, pp 54-54, published by The Carmarthenshire Antiquary Society).

5.2 The 1840 Tithe Map shows the development area as four fields :

<i>Tithe Map entry:</i>	<i>Suggested translation:</i>
No. 34 : Clyn canol	(Middle Valley)
No. 35 : Bryn glass ucha	(Upper Green Hill)
No. 36 : Cae clovers	(? . . . . . Field)
No. 37 : Park Defed	(Sheep Park [Parc] or Field)



Tithe Map for the Parish of Merthyr 1840  
(Courtesy of Carmarthen County Records Office)

Fig. 2



5.3 The fields were owned by Lady Diana Ann Hamlyn Williams with John Thomas the occupier.

5.4 No historical evidence relating specifically to the fields of the evaluation area have been found.

5.5 The hedgerow shown on the Tithe Map between fields No's. 34 and 35 was removed in the past although it is still traceable on the ground as a low bank. The other hedgerows shown on the Tithe Map remain.

## **6. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

6.1 There are a number of archaeological sites of Prehistoric, Roman and later date recorded all around Derllys Court Golf Club although only one, a cropmark detected on a 1952 air photograph at Tafarn-Plwca (SMR, 12125 at SN35571952), is actually on the golf course.

6.2 Other sites close to the course are those of Roman finds at Tafarn-Plwca (SMR, 2148 at SN355193) and one of unknown type and unknown date at Parc-y-Berllan (SMR, 2268 at SN35262006).

6.3 The discovery of a hitherto unknown Roman road that leads west from Carmarthen and which passes just to the south of the development area together with the Roman finds and cropmark at Tafarn-Plwca was the reason that the Council's archaeological advisors suggested that there should be a condition on the planning consent to protect any archaeological remains that might survive in the development area (Heather James, letter to S. Finney, 28.6.98).

This archaeological evaluation was carried out by Monmouth Archaeology  
under the supervision of  
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## **7. THE EXCAVATIONS**

7.1 Fourteen trial trenches were excavated, initially by machine, in the areas that would be disturbed during the development groundworks.

7.2 Six excavations were carried out through hedge banks where it was planned that these would be cut during the development.

## **8. THE ARCHAEOLOGY**

8.1 The excavations showed that the topsoil over most of the area was very thin and lay directly over the natural clays or shales. The marshy parts of the development area were found to contain deeper soft clay deposits below the topsoil.

8.2 No archaeological features were discovered during the trial trenching and there was only one find which was earlier than the 17th century : a flint blade. The flint is described in the Finds Catalogue together with the other discoveries.

8.3 The general impression during the excavations was that the fields had seldom if ever been under the plough. The topsoil was thin and earthworm activity had long ago lowered loose stones down to the subsoil or close to the bedrock while no plough marks were observed. Perhaps the most significant indication that the fields were long-term pasture was that the hedgerows were almost totally composed of loam. Ploughing brings stones to the surface and these were often removed by 'stone pickers' who would have deposited them in the hedge banks.

8.4 The very small pottery assemblage almost certainly arrived during the manuring of the fields. Pottery distributed during manuring the land would be well scattered during deposition and would be varied, in small sherds, and often very abraded.

8.5 That the earliest pottery sherds are attributable to the late 17th or early 18th centuries is interesting but probably not significant. That there is no earlier pottery does not necessarily mean that the land was not in use before this time : pottery is rare in much of medieval Wales and Dr. Paul Courtney has recently suggested that large parts of rural Wales was aceramic until well into post-medieval times.

8.6 Context 37 in Trial Trench 11/1 was examined by Dr. P. Carpenter, botanist and Director of Caer Llan Field Studies Centre, who was satisfied that

it was a natural organic residue, probably from the roots of bracken or similar plants.

### *The Hedge Bank Excavations*

8.7 The six hedge bank excavations took place on those parts of the hedgerows that would have been removed during the golf course extension. The excavations were initially carried out with a machine but this was followed by the hand excavation of the ditches that were revealed.

8.8 A notable feature of the surviving hedge banks was their height above field level. As already mentioned the banks consist almost totally of a homogeneous dark stoneless loam which stands out in comparison with the shallow topsoils all around. It seems likely that these banks have built up through the decay of the plants within the hedge together with any wind-born dusts and detritus that might have become trapped in the foliage. It therefore seems reasonable to assume that the hedges and their banks and ditches are of some antiquity. The hedge foliage included a large number of bluebells which is also seen as evidence of old or ancient hedges especially when there are no woodlands in the immediate vicinity.

8.9 Hedge bank excavations HB5 and HB6 across the hedgerow dividing Tithe Map field No's. 36 and 37 revealed that there had been ditches on each side of the hedge. The ditch on the south side of both sections was very shallow while, on the north side, both ditches had secondary cuts. It seems probable that the hedgerow that existed between fields 34 and 35 also had ditches as it appears to be a continuation of the above hedgerow. However, although the remains of the hedge bank were discernable on the ground there was no indication of ditches. It may be that the other hedgebanks also had ditches but as there was to be no disturbance below the field level it was felt that deeper digging here could not be justified.

8.10 The ditches recorded were hand excavated and found to contain brown loam similar to the body of the hedgebank. There were no datable finds from the ditches.

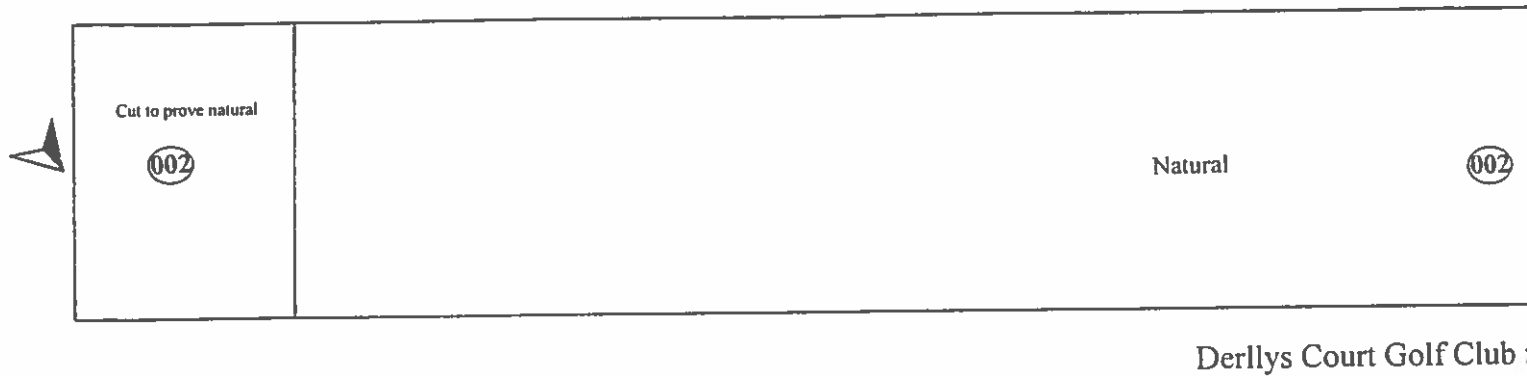
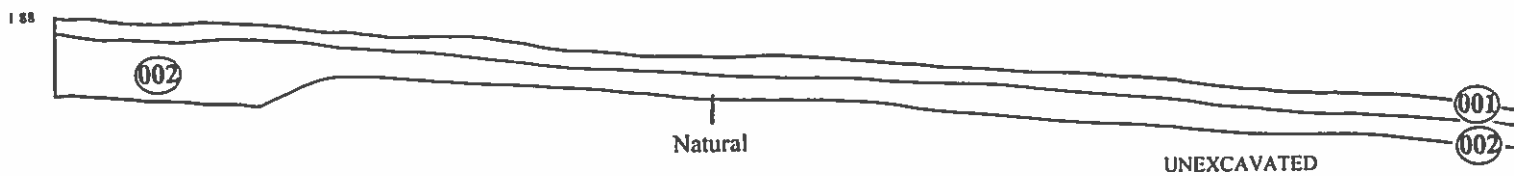




Derllys Court Golf Club : Trial Trench 1



Derllys Court Golf Club : Trial Trench 2



Derllys Court Golf Club

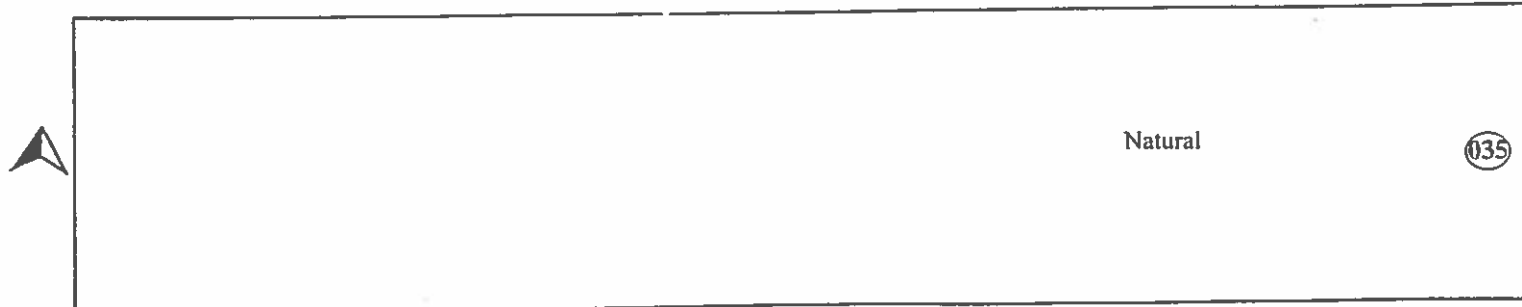
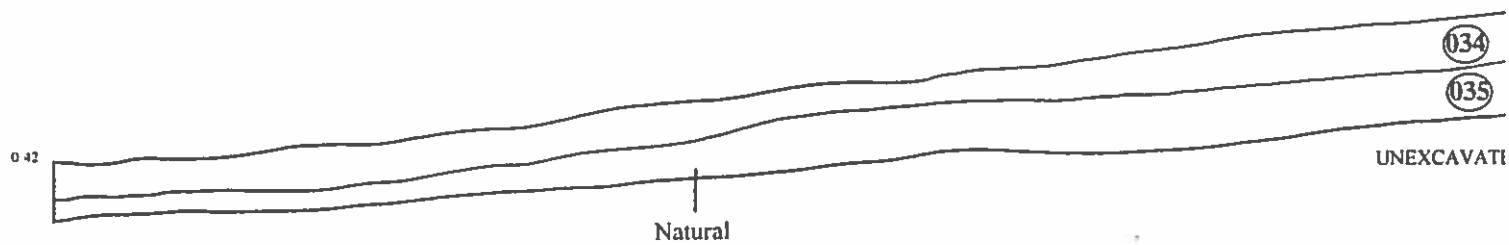


Fig. 4





Derllys Court Golf Club : Trial Trench 3

Plates 3-4



Derllys Court Golf Club : Trial Trench 4



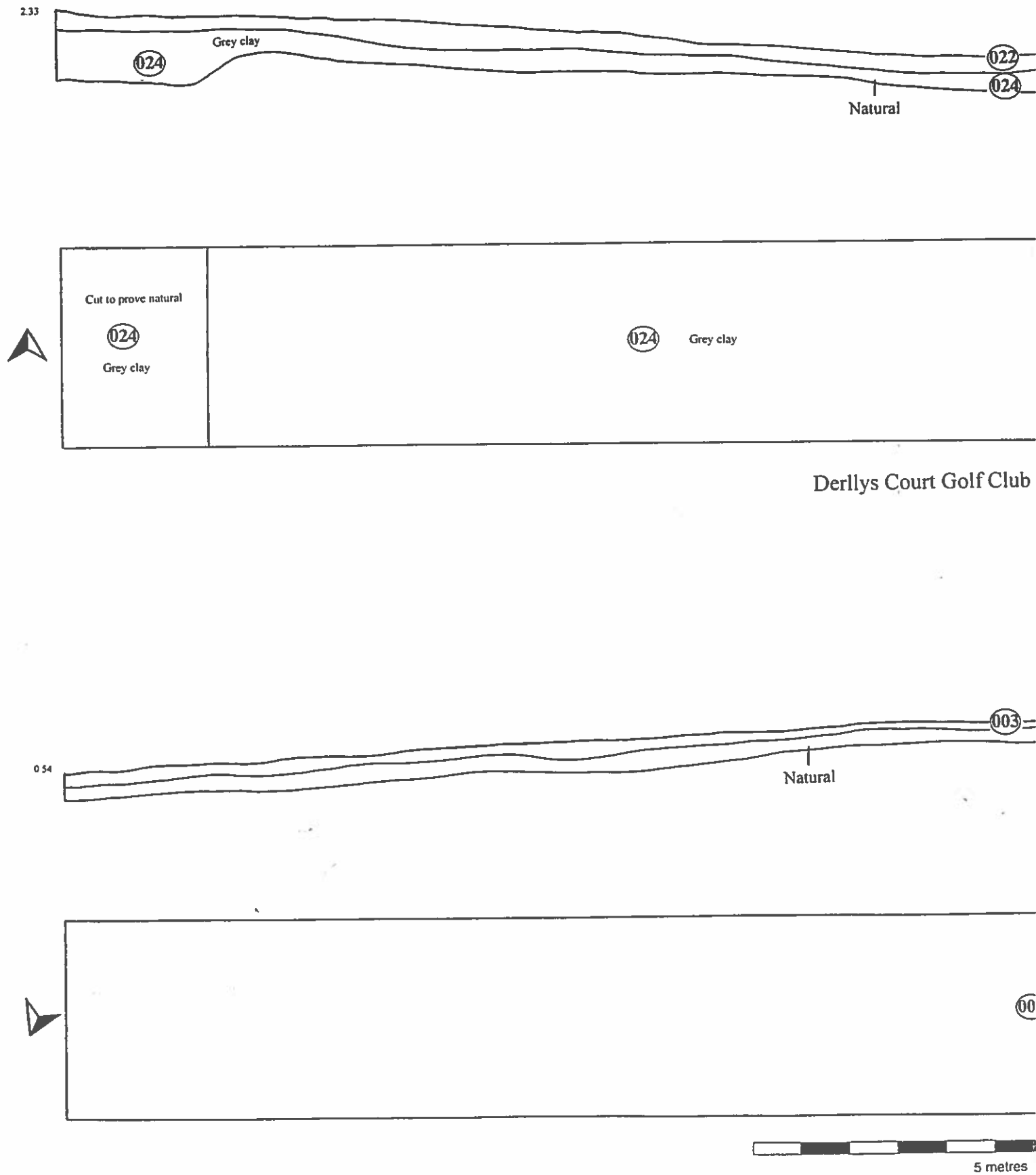


Fig. 5



Derllys Court Golf Club : Trial Trench 5

Plates 5-6



Derllys Court Golf Club : Trial Trench 6

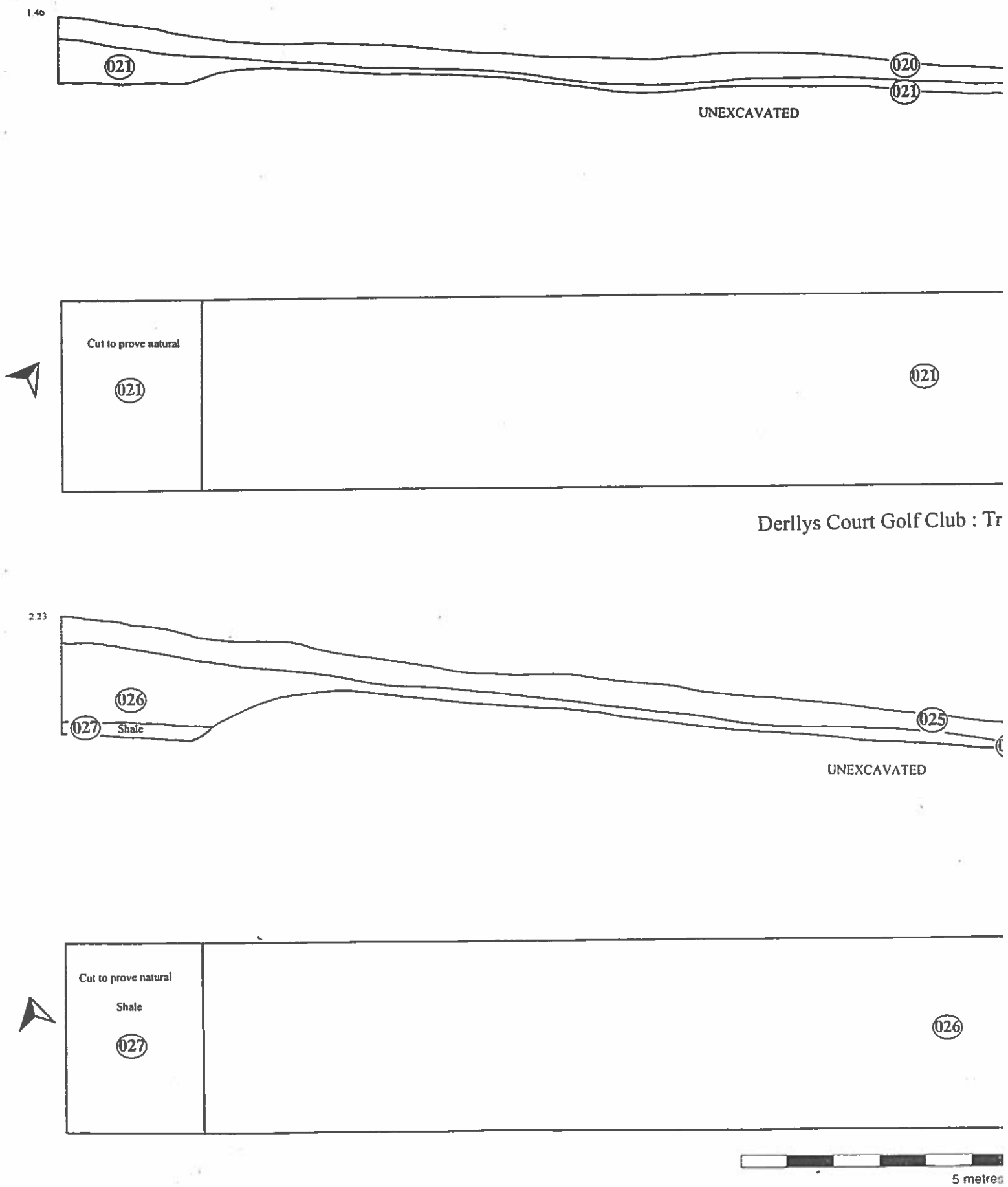


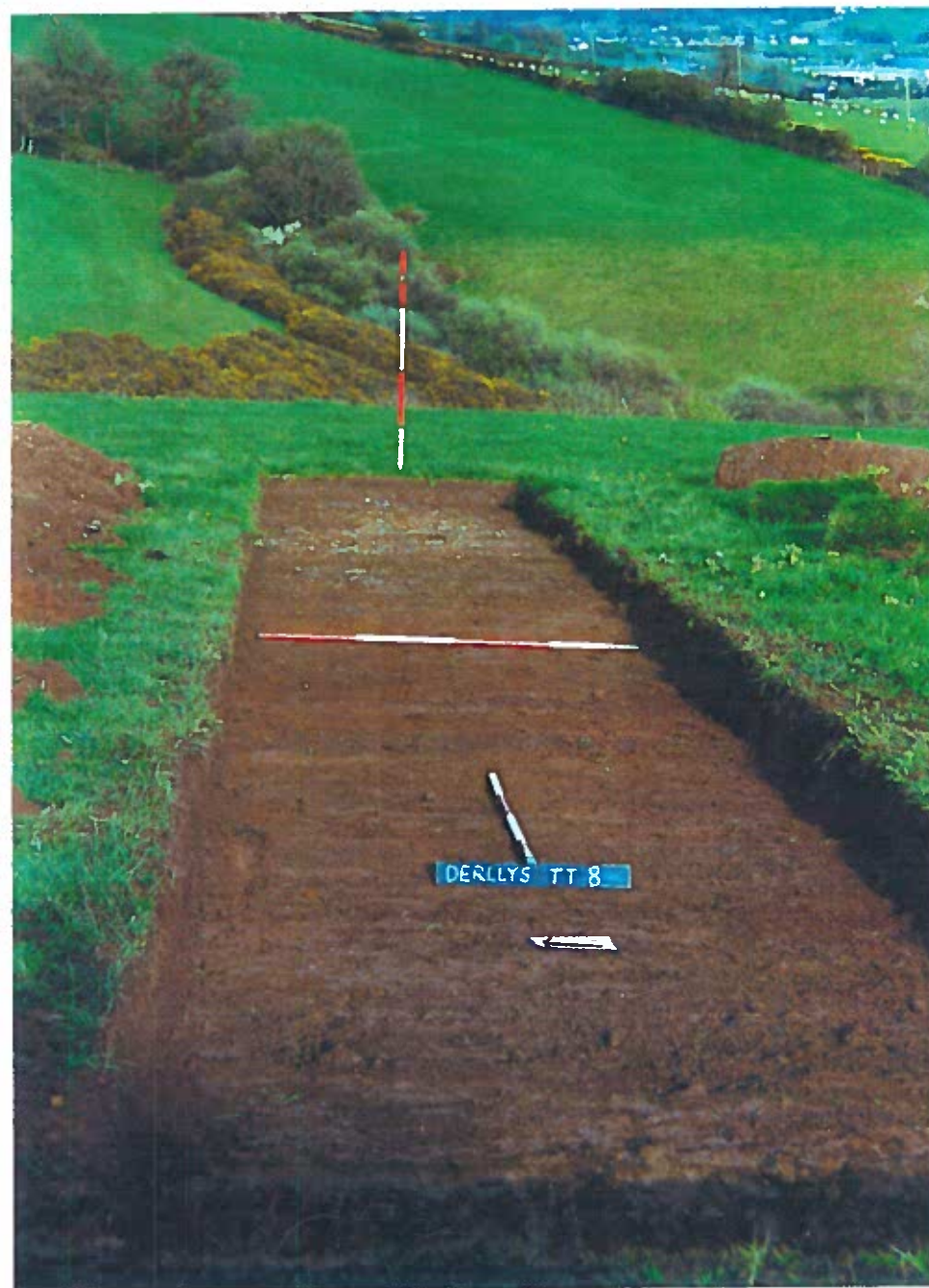
Fig. 6



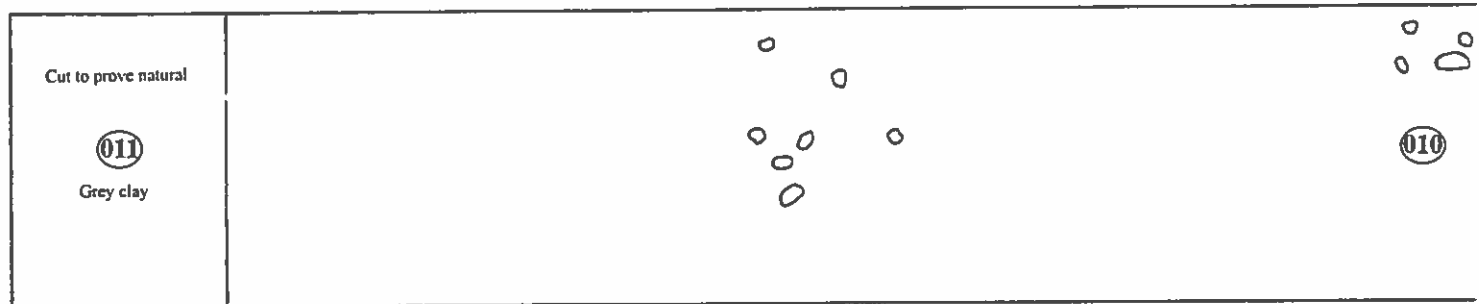
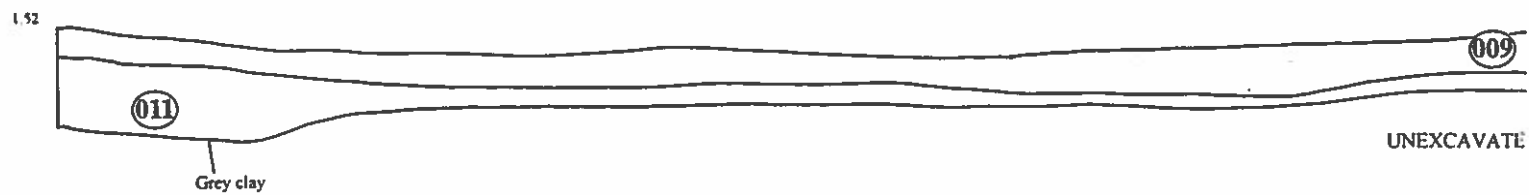


Derllys Court Golf Club : Trial Trench 7

Plates 7-8



Derllys Court Golf Club : Trial Trench 8



Derllys Court Golf Club : 1

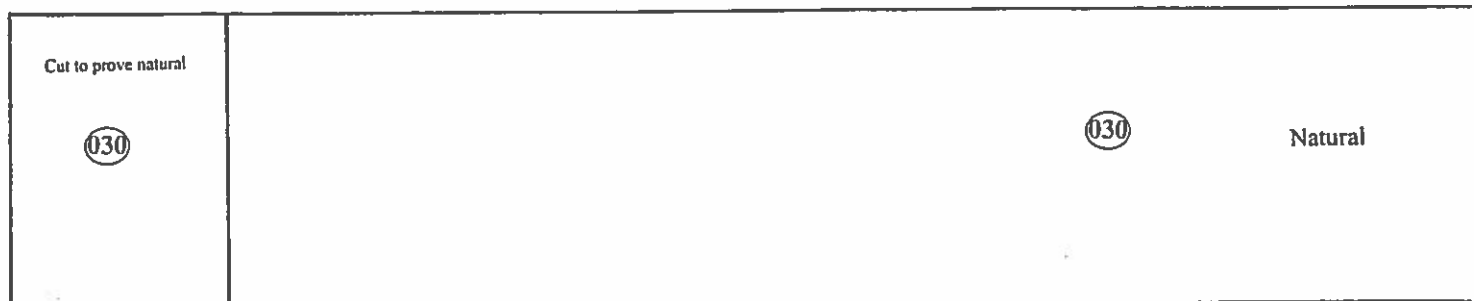
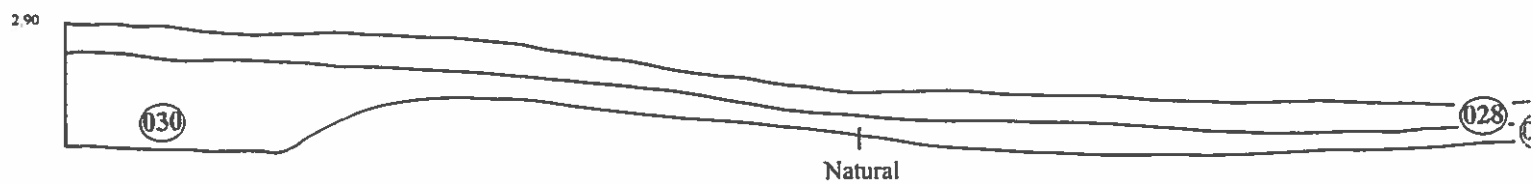
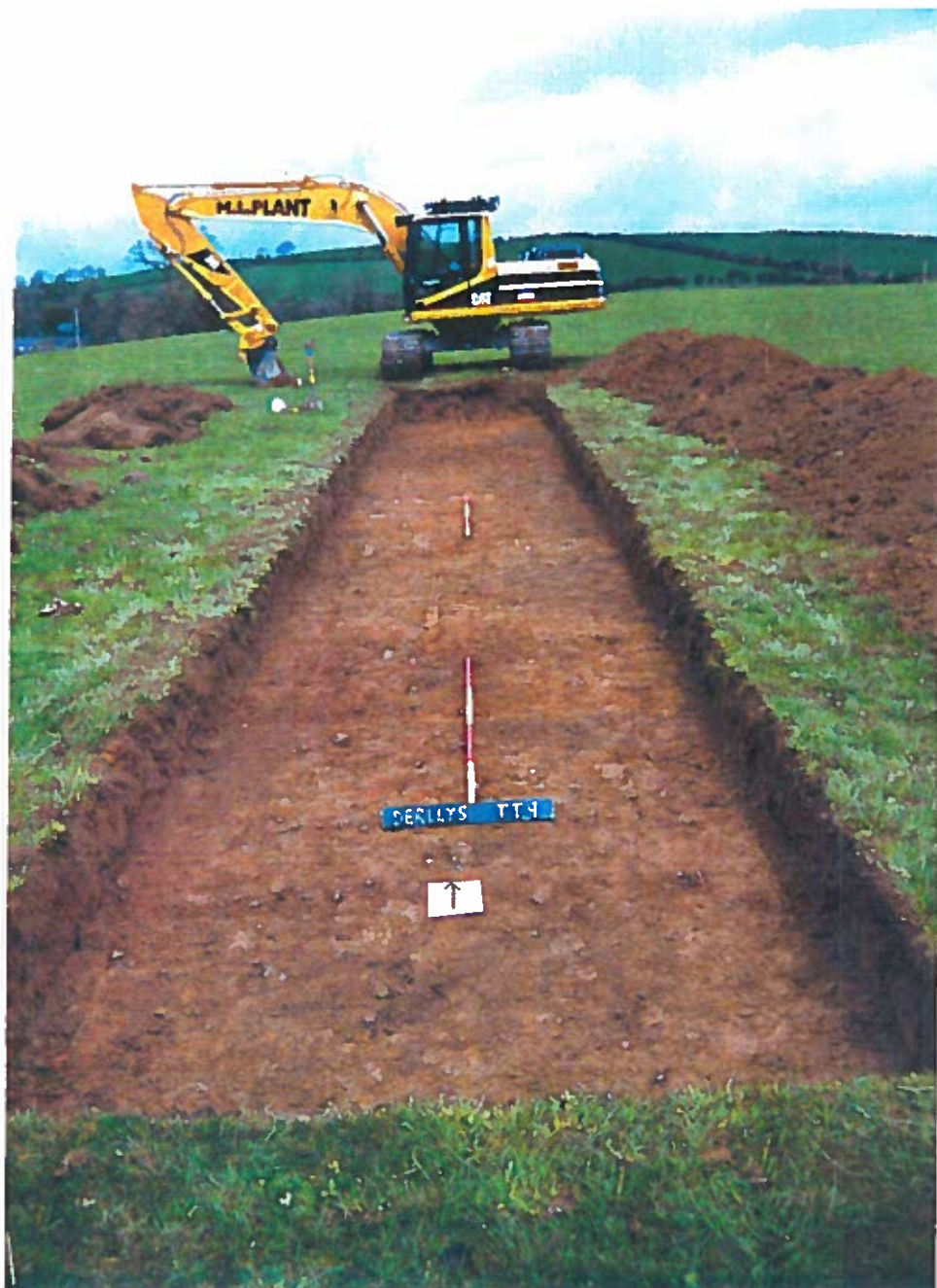


Fig. 7





Derllys Court Golf Club : Trial Trench 9



Derllys Court Golf Club : Trial Trench 10/1

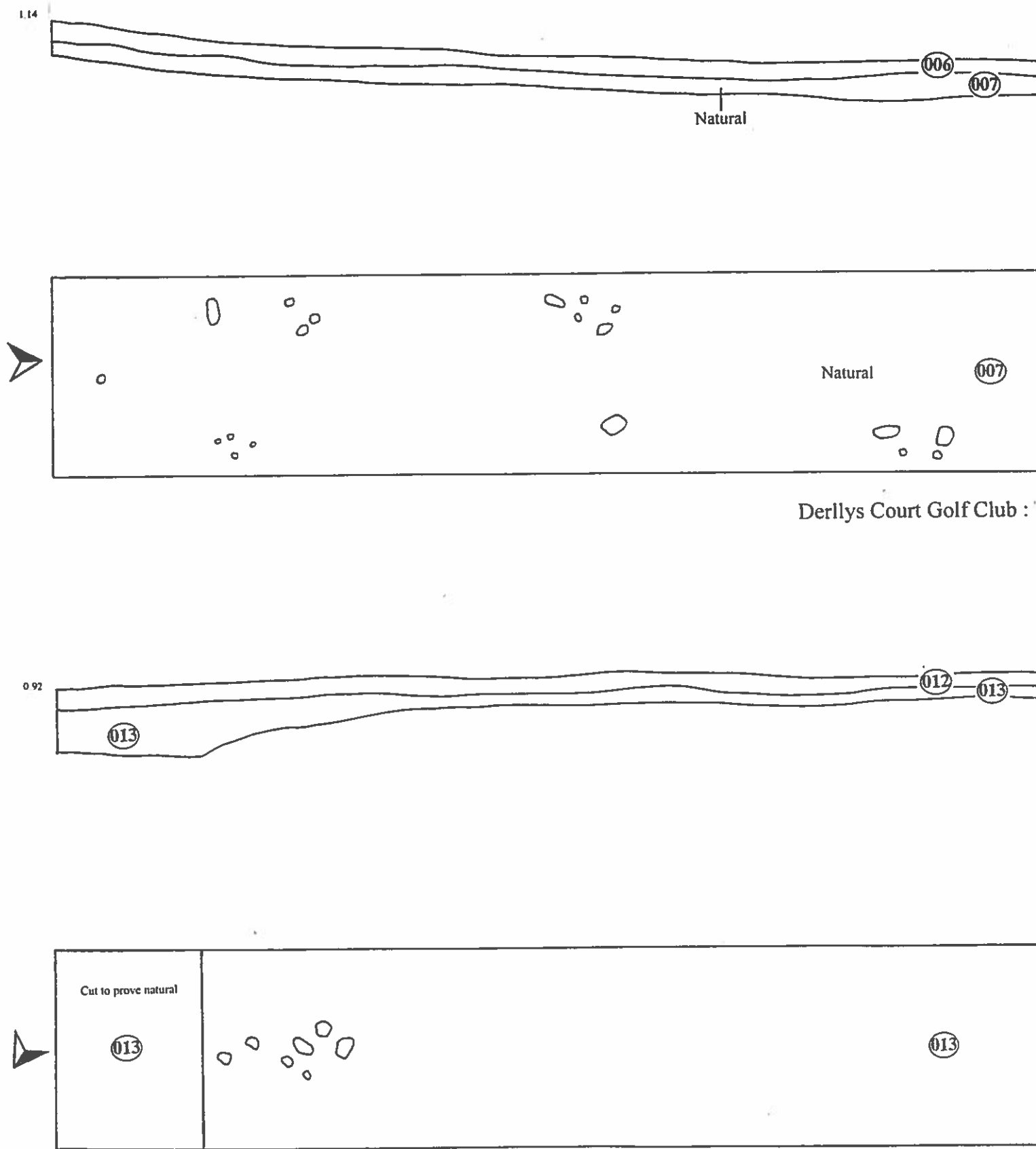


Fig. 8







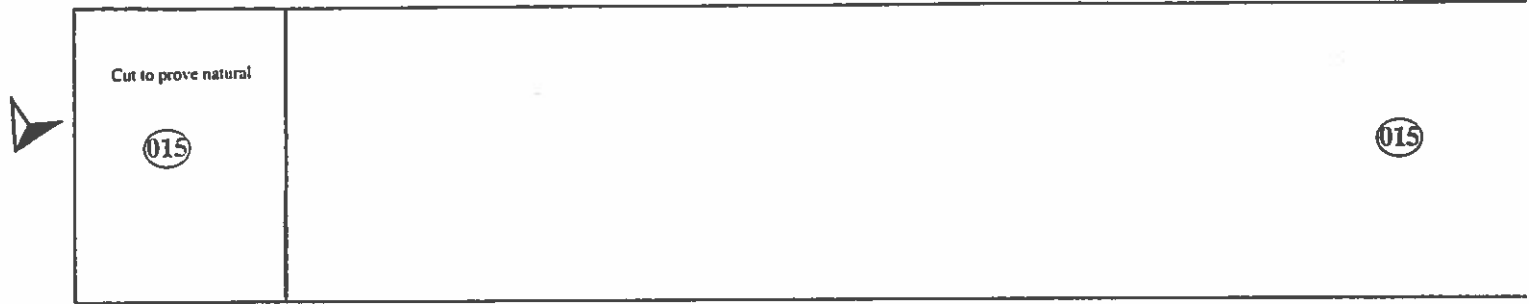
Derllys Court Golf Club : Trial Trench 10/2

Plates 11-12



Derllys Court Golf Club : Trial Trench 10/3





Derllys Court Golf Club : T

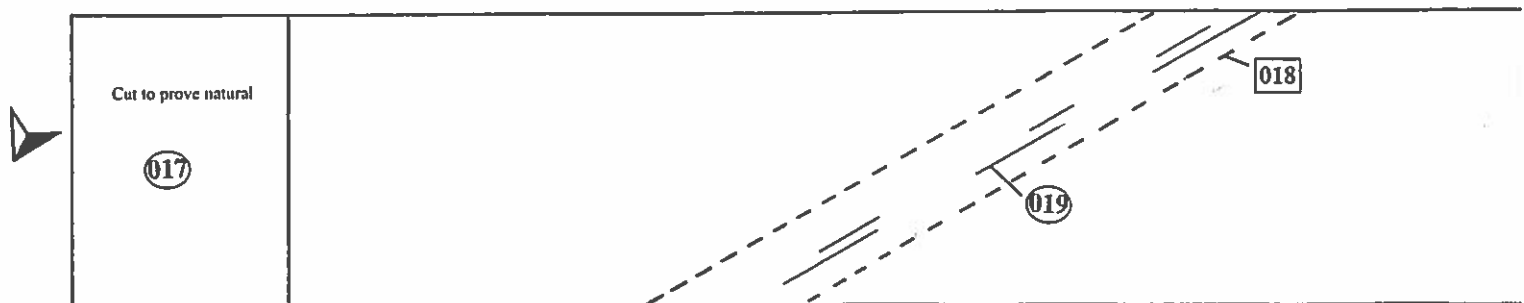
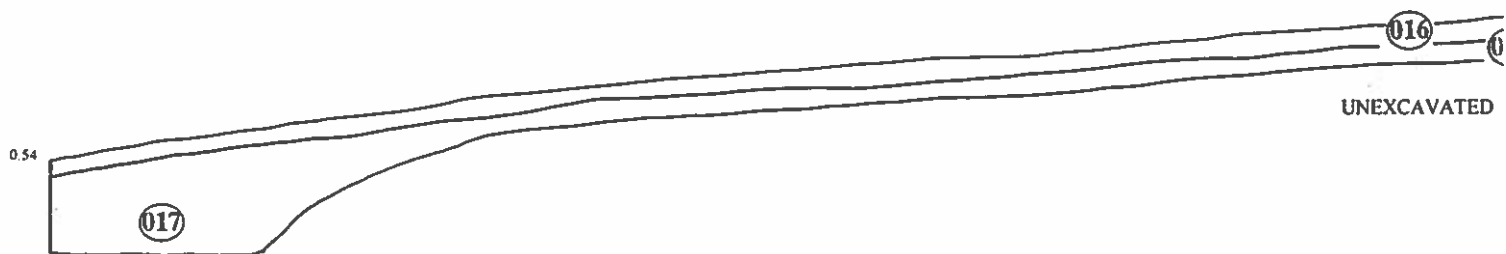


Fig. 9

Derllys Court Golf Club :





Derllys Court Golf Club : Trial Trench TT11/1

Plates 13-14



Derllys Court Golf Club : Trial Trench TT11/2



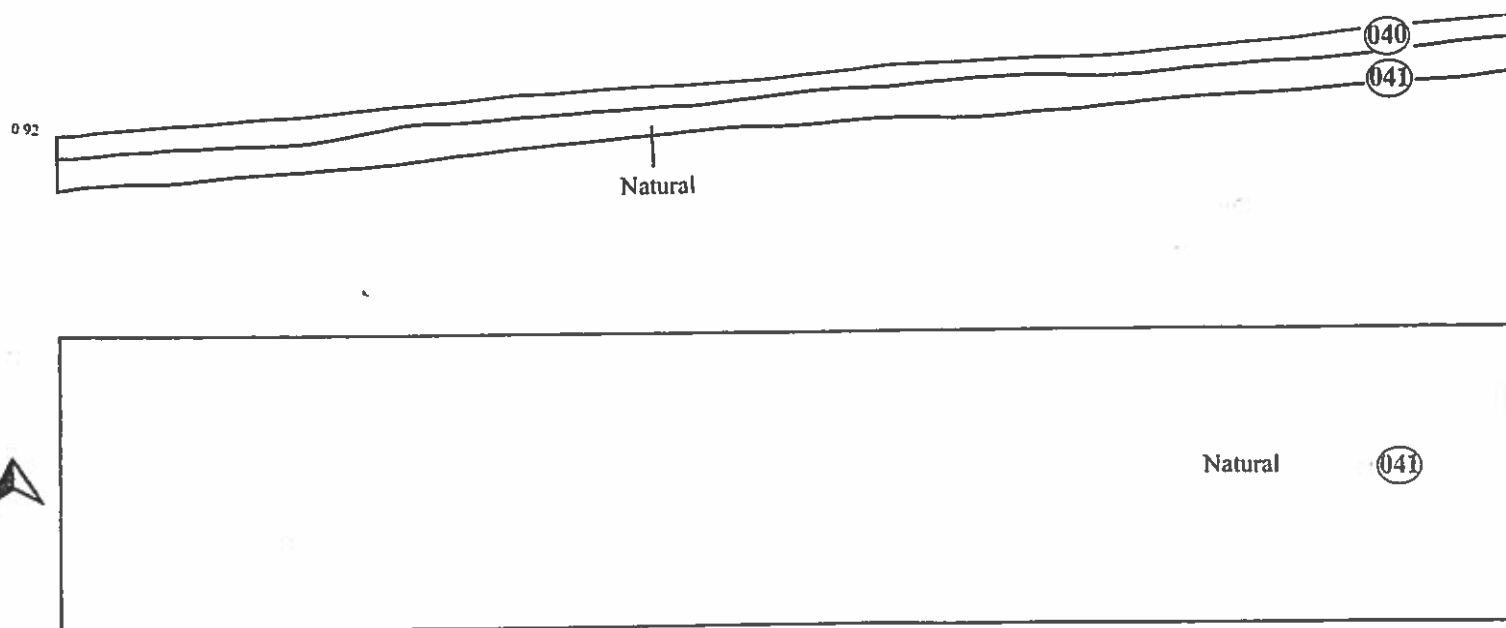
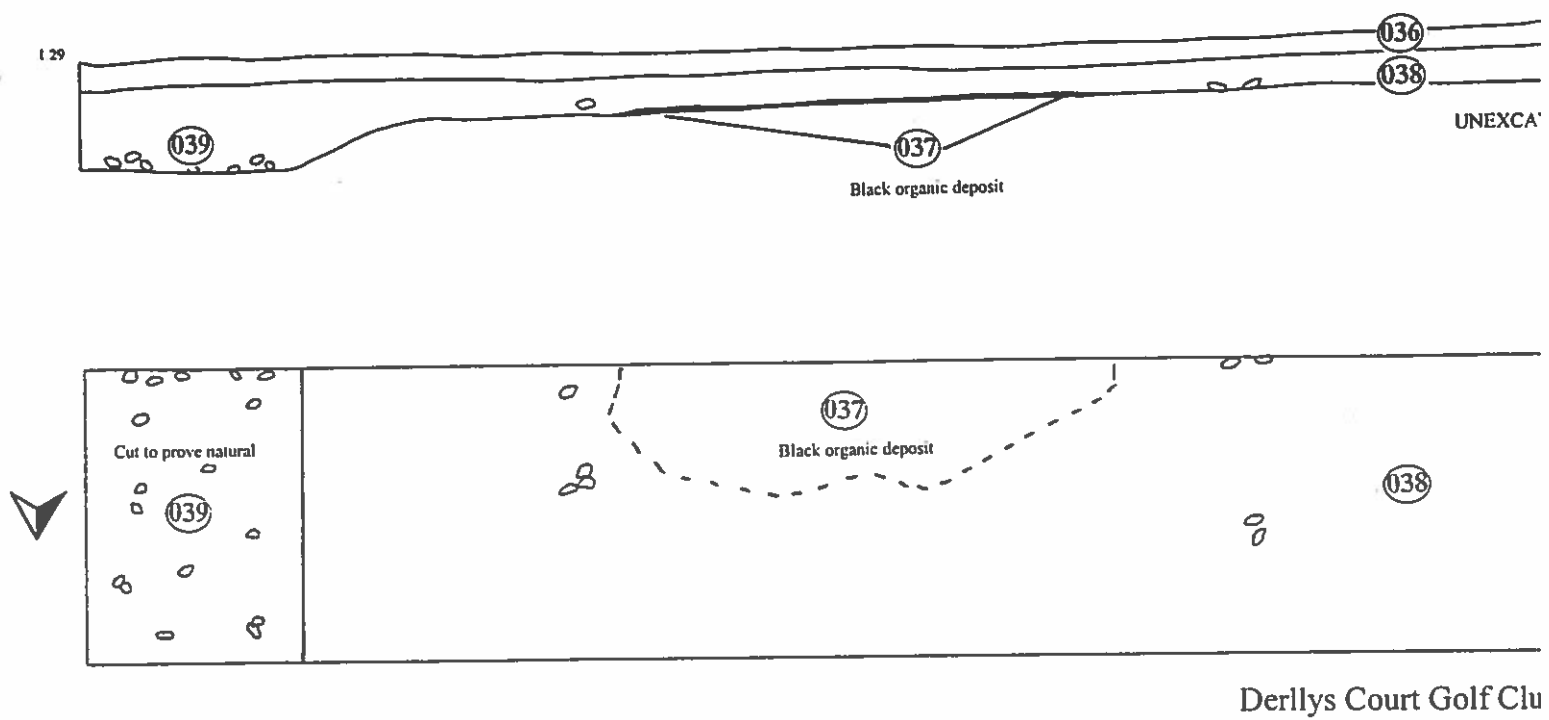


Fig. 10





Derllys Court Golf Club : Siting of Trial Trenches 10/1; 10/2; 10/3



Derllys Court Golf Club : Siting of Trial Trenches 11; 11/1; 11/2  
Plates 15-16





Derllys Court Golf Club : Section through hedge bank (HB1) South



Derllys Court Golf Club : Section through hedge bank (HB2) South  
Plates 17-18

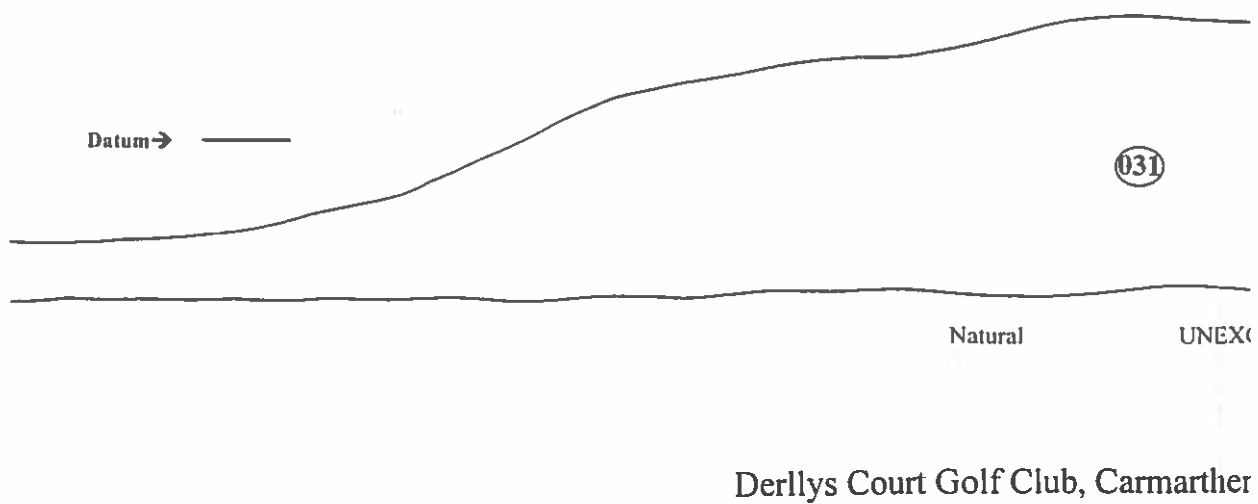
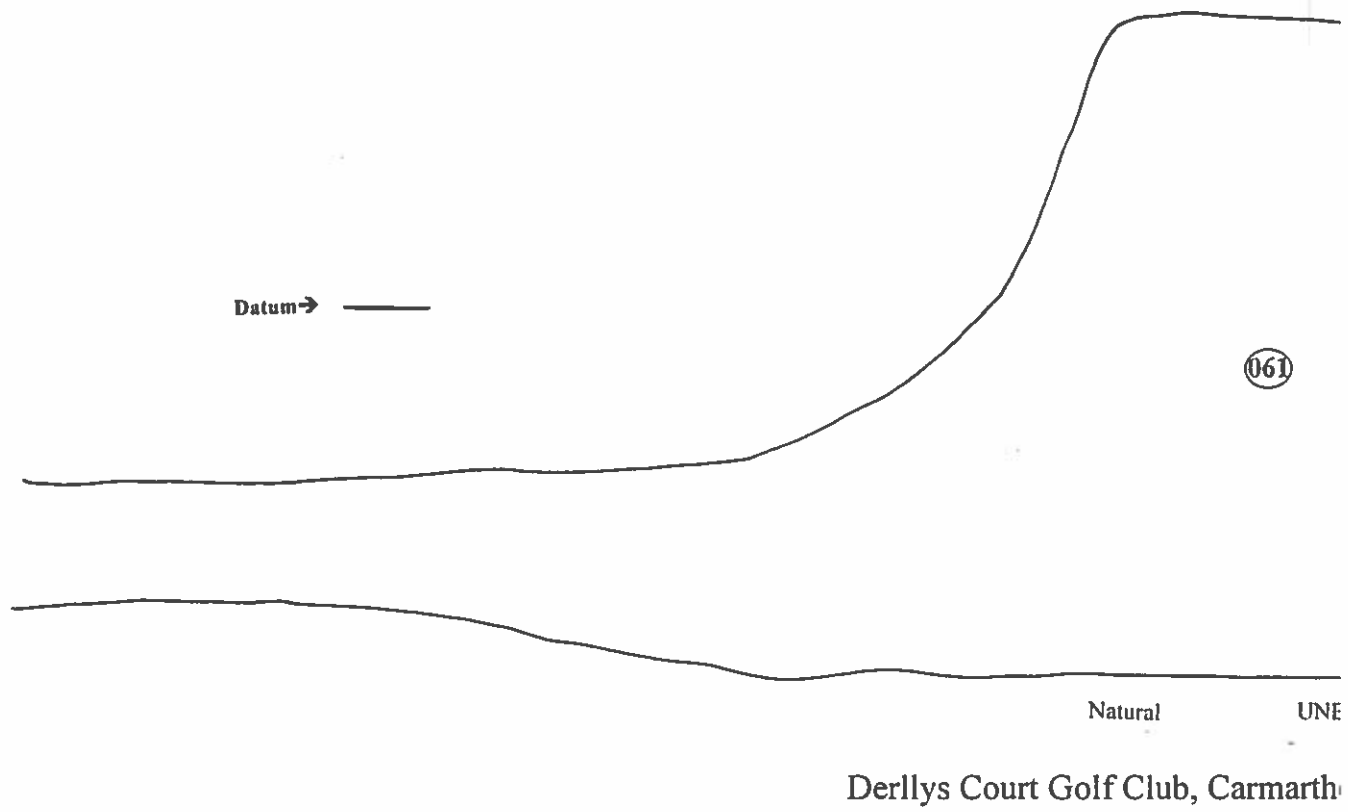


Fig. 11

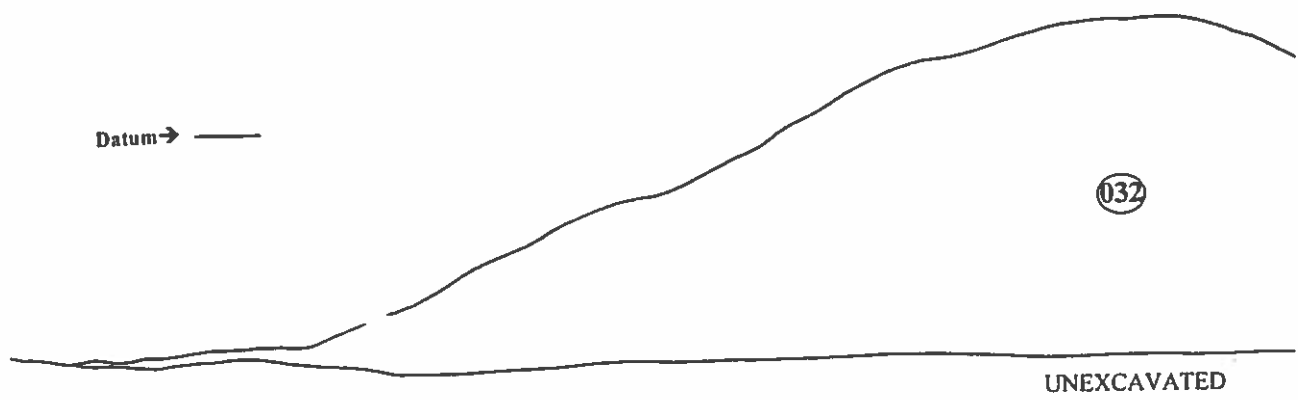




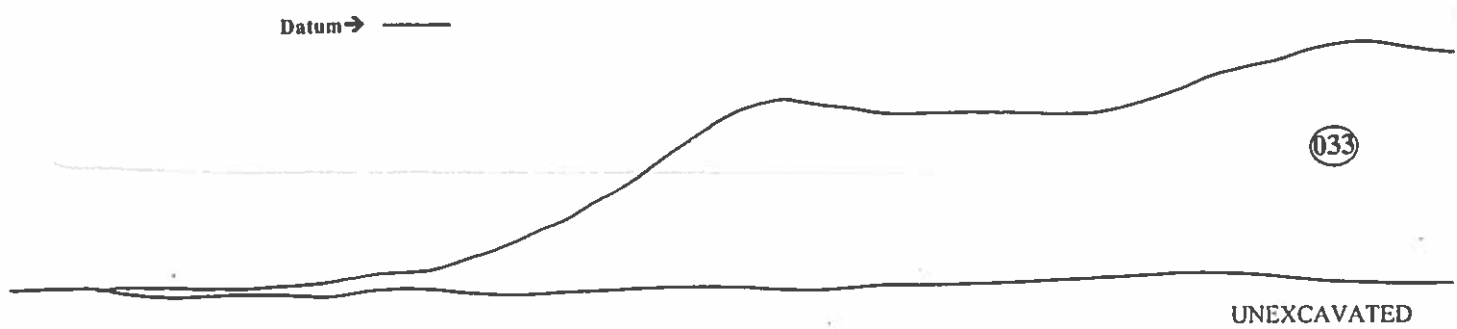
Derllys Court Golf Club : Section through hedge bank (HB3)



Derllys Court Golf Club : Section through hedge bank (HB4)



Derllys Court Golf Club, Carmarthen : Hedgebank



Derllys Court Golf Club, Carmarthen : Hedgebank



Fig. 12



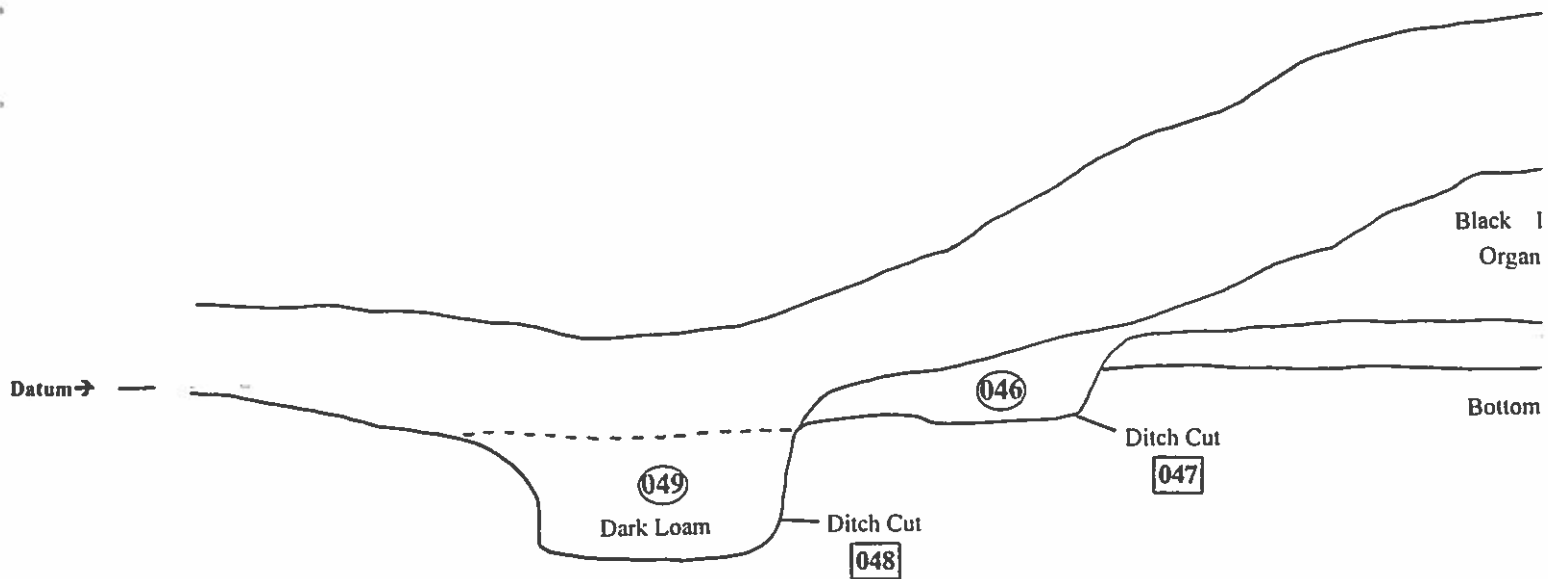


Derlllys Court Golf Club : Section through hedge bank (HB5)

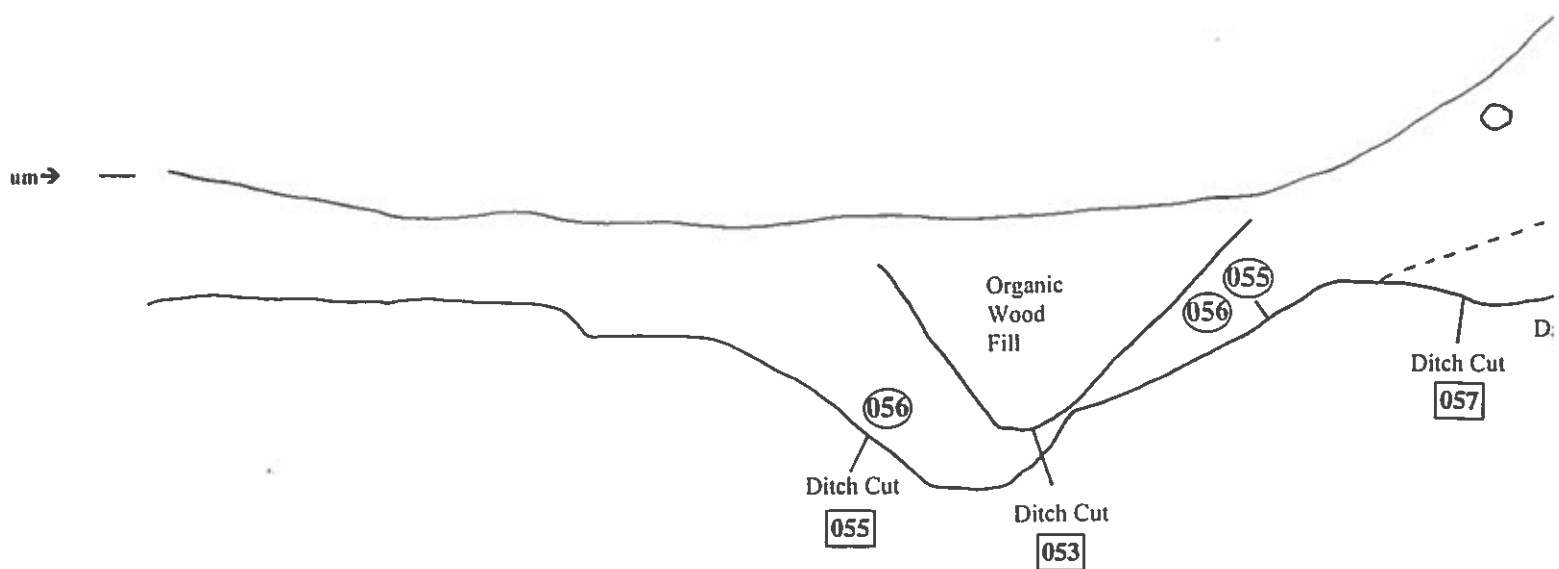


Derlllys Court Golf Club : Section through hedge bank (HB5)





Derllys Court Golf Club, Carmarthen



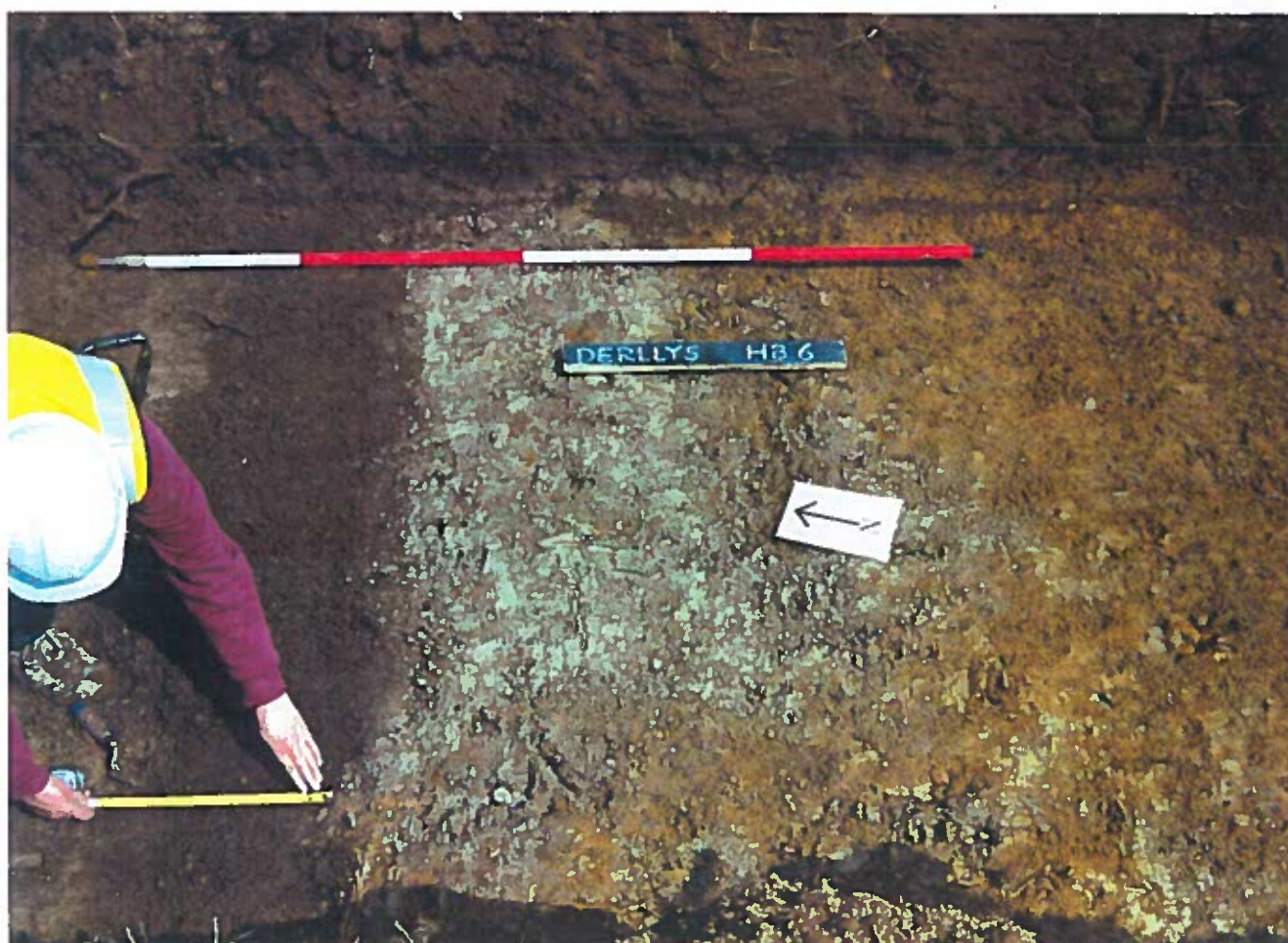
Derllys Court Golf Club, Carmarthen :

1 metre

Fig. 13



Derllys Court Golf Club : Hedge bank 6 : ditch fills



Derllys Court Golf Club : Hedge bank 6 : ditch fill  
Plates 23-24

## **9. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SUMMARY**

9.1 No documentary evidence was found to suggest that there were any important archaeological features in the development area.

9.2 The excavations for the archaeological evaluation produced no evidence of occupation in the parts of the site where disturbances will occur during the development.

## 10. THE CONTEXTS

### *Trench 1*

- 001 Turf and topsoil to 13cms.
- 002 Sandy natural to 22 cms, with gravel and pebbles from sand grain size to 50 cms x 40 cms. Cut to prove natural to 54 cms.

### *Trench 2*

- 034 Turf and topsoil to 28 cms.
- 035 Light brown/yellow sandy clay natural with reddish ochre type deposits. Cut to prove natural to 68 cms.

### *Trench 3*

- 022 Turf and topsoil to 18 cm.
- 023 Light brown/orange sandy natural to 28 cm.
- 024 Natural blends into a grey clay. Cut to prove natural to 70 cm.

### *Trench 4*

- 003 Turf and topsoil to 14 cm.
- 004 Light brown sandy natural with rounded pebbles.
- 005 Natural changes to orange sandy clay at 56 cm the depth of cut to prove natural.

### *Trench 5*

- 020 Turf and topsoil to 13 cm.
- 021 Light brown sandy natural with few pebbles.

### *Trench 6*

- 025 Turf and topsoil to 20 cm.
- 026 Orange/brown sandy natural with pebbles and some clay to 29 cm.
- 027 Shale at 60 cm. Cut to prove natural to 75 cm.

### *Trench 7*

- 009 Turf and topsoil to 20 cm.
- 010 Yellow sandy natural with pebbles and some large boulders.
- 011 Cut to prove natural to 70 cm, changes to grey sandy clay.

#### *Trench 8*

- 028 Turf and topsoil to 20 cms, lies directly on Context 029.
- 029 Shale stretches approx. 7m towards west side of trench.
- 030 Natural changes to orange/ brown with pebbles. Bottom of trench 28cms cut to prove natural to 84 cms.

#### *Trench 9*

- 006 Turf and topsoil to 20 cms.
- 007 Yellow sandy natural, more yellow than Contexts 002 and 004, less stony. Bottom of trench 36 cms.
- 008 Natural changes to grey clay at a depth of 80 cms, bottom of cut to prove natural.

#### *Trench 10/1*

- 012 Turf and topsoil to 20 cms.
- 013 Light brown clay natural to 28 cms. Cut to prove natural to 63 cms.

#### *Trench 10/2*

- 014 Turf and topsoil to 20 cms.
- 015 Grey clay natural. Cut to prove natural to 68 cms.

#### *Trench 10/3*

- 016 Turf and topsoil to 13 cms.
- 017 Grey clay natural. Cut to prove natural to 60 cms.

#### *Trial Trench 11/1*

- 036 Turf and topsoil to 20 cms, marshy with rushes.
- 037 Occasional black organic deposits covering pebbles.
- 038 Light brown/grey clay with large pebbles, patches of orange and white clay.
- 039 Cut to prove natural to 73 cms. Very dark grey clay.

#### *Trial Trench 11/2*

- 040 Turf and topsoil to 20 cms.
- 041 Light brown/grey clay natural with pebbles. Cut to prove natural to 60 cms.

*Hedge Bank 1*

- 061 Brown loam with thin organic layer on the top.

*Hedge Bank 2*

- 031 Brown loam with thin organic layer on the top.

*Hedge Bank 3*

- 032 Brown loam with thin organic layer on the top.

*Hedge Bank 4*

- 033 Brown loam with thin organic layer on the top.

*Hedge Bank 5*

- 042 Very dark brown loam topsoil, very few stones .
- 043 Orange/fawn clay runs beneath Context 042 but is cut by ditch on south (Context 044).
- 044 Ditch cut on south side of hedge bank.
- 045 Dark loam fill of Context 044, with pebbles.
- 046 Lens of dark loam also fill of Context 047.
- 047 First ditch cut on the north side hedge bank : into natural 043.
- 048 Later ditch cut through edge of Context 046/047.
- 049 Dark loam fill of Context 048.

*Hedge Bank 6*

- 050 Very dark brown loam topsoil.
- 051 Patch of dark loam in the centre of the bank 126 cm across.
- 052 Grey clay band on the north side of the hedge bank adjacent to Context 051.
- 053 Ditch re-cut on the north side of the hedge bank. Cutting Context 056.
- 054 Dark loam fill of Context 053.
- 055 Ditch cut on the north side of the hedge bank.
- 056 Dark loam fill of Context 055.
- 057 First ditch cut on the north side of the hedge bank.
- 058 Dark loam fill of Context 057.
- 059 Ditch cut on the north side of the hedge bank.
- 060 Dark loam fill of Context 059.



## 11. THE FINDS

### 11.1 Summary

The majority of the finds were of 19th and 20th century date and consisted of small sherds of pottery and glass : presumably distributed with farmhouse manure.

#### *The Flint*

The single flint blade came from Trial Trench 6 (Context 025).

Dr. Elizabeth Walker of the National Museum of Wales examined the piece and thinks that it is possibly of Neolithic date. There is evidence of utilization along the one edge. The other edge is cortical suggesting this may have been used as a knife, the cortex providing a natural backing. The blade has a white patina and the cortex suggests that it may have been made from a water-rolled flint pebble.

#### *Pottery*

The earliest pottery was sherds of North Devon Gravel Tempered Ware from Trial Trench 4 (003), TT 6 (025) and TT 9 (006). A single sherd of a 17th/18th cent. (?)bowl from TT4 (003) probably came from Somerset.



## 11.2 The Pottery Catalogue

### *Trial Trench 3*

#### *Context 022*

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
001	Brown banded - mug?	G	20th C	1

### *Trial Trench 4*

#### *Context 003*

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
003	Blue and white	G	19/20th C	1
003	White - Bristol?	G	19/20th C	1
003	North Devon Gravel Tempered Bowl	E5	Late 17th/18th C	1
003	Internally glazed- Somerset Bowl?	G	17/18th C	1

### *Trial Trench 5*

#### *Context 020*

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
020	Stoneware Bowl - English	G	19/20th C	1
020	Stoneware	G	18/20th C	1

### *Trial Trench 6*

#### *Context 025*

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
025	North Devon internally glazed vessel	E5	17/18th C	1

### *Trial Trench 7*

#### *Context 009*

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
009	English purple glazed bowl?	G	19/20th C	1

### *Trial Trench 8*

#### *Context 028*

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
028	English Stoneware	G	19/20th C	1
028	White Staffs?	G	19/20th C	1

*Trial Trench 9*  
*Context 006*

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
006	North Devon Gravel Tempered Ware - worn body sherd	E5	17/18th C	1
006	Internally glazed base sherd	G	17/18th C	1
006	Blue and White	G	19/20th C	1
006	Staffs. white fragment	G	19/20th C	1

*Trial Trench 10/1*  
*Context 012*

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
012	Blue banded mug?	G	19/20th C	2
012	Staffs? White	G	19/20th C	6
012	Field drain fragments	G	19/20th C	2

*Trial Trench 10/2*  
*Context 014*

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
014	Blue and White plate	G	19/20th C	1
014	English Stoneware moulded jar?	G	18/20th C	1
014	White Bristol/Staffs?	G	19/20th C	2
014	Field drain fragments	G	19/20th C	3

*Trial Trench 10/3*  
*Context 016*

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
016	Field drain fragments	G	20th C	3

### 11.3 Other Finds

#### *Trial Trench 2*

<i>Context</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>No.</i>
034	Small lump of fired clay, all rough surfaces oxidised. Angular to sub-rounded quartz up to 0.5mm, very fine mica - local?	20th C?	1

#### *Trial Trench 5*

<i>Context</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>No.</i>
020	Green glass bottle	20th C	1

#### *Trial Trench 6*

<i>Context</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>No.</i>
025	Flint blade with white patina.	Possibly neolithic	1

#### *Trial Trench 7*

<i>Context</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>No.</i>
009	Coal	-	1
009	Burnt quartz	-	1

#### *Trial Trench 8*

<i>Context</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>No.</i>
028	Iron staple	-	1

#### *Trial Trench 9*

<i>Context</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>No.</i>
006	Clay pipe stem	-	1
006	Green glass bottle	-	1

#### *Trial Trench 10/1*

<i>Context</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>No.</i>
012	Green fine window glass	19th C?	1

#### *Trial Trench 10/2*

<i>Context</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>No.</i>
014	Sewer pipe	19/20th C	1
014	Green glass bottle top	20th C	1

### *Hedge Bank 6*

<i>Context</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>No.</i>
US	Iron nail	19/20th C	1

### **11.4 The Bones**

<i>Context</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>Bone / Teeth</i>	<i>Number</i>
042	Fox	Skull	1
042	Sheep	Tibia fragment	1



## **12. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

12.1 The evaluation has shown that there is no perceptible archaeological remains in the areas of the golf course extension that are to be disturbed during the proposed development.

12.2 The archaeological contractors consider that there is no archaeological reason to object to the proposed development nor is there a necessity for a continuous watching brief during the groundworks.

## **13. THE ARCHIVE**

The Archive will be offered to the Abergwili Museum, Carmarthen.

It contains:

1. All the finds and samples listed in this report.
2. All Plans, Sections and Maps in this report.
3. All Photographs and Negatives in this report together with others taken but not included in the report.
4. All Context Sheets.
5. All Pottery and Finds Recording Sheets.
6. All Levels Records.
7. The original Typescript and Past-up for the Evaluation Report.
8. All Research Notes, SMR, etc.
9. Copies of all relevant correspondence.

## 14. REFERENCES

Abbreviations used in the text :

CRO Carmarthen County Record Office

NLW The National Library of Wales

SMR The Sites and Monuments Record

### 14.1 Primary sources

#### **National Library of Wales**

Ordnance Survey Map, 1880, Carmarthenshire and later editions.

#### **Carmarthenshire County Record Office**

Tithe Map, 1840

### 14.2 Secondary sources

Owen, E., 1914.(Ed.), *Manuscripts Relating to Wales in the British Museum*.  
Cymm. Rec. Ser., VII, London,

'*Archaeologia Cambrensis*' The Journal of The Cambrian Archaeological  
Association. Various editions.

'*Archaeology in Wales*', The Journal of the Council for British Archaeology  
(Wales).

Transactions of The Carmarthenshire Antiquary, Volumes VIII, IX.

Francis Jones, *Historic Carmarthenshire Homes*, published by The  
Carmarthenshire Antiquary Society.

Royal Commission for Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales, CARN  
database.

Derllys Court, Carmarthen

APPENDIX A

The DAT Planning Letter





# Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Dyfed Archaeological Trust

Neuadd y Sir, Stryd Caerfyrddin, Llandeilo, Dyfed SA19 6AF  
The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Dyfed SA19 6AF

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28th June 1998

S.W. Finney,  
Senior Consultant, Land & Leisure,  
ADAS Cardiff  
St Agnes Road, Gabalfa  
Cardiff CF4 4YH.

Dear Mr Finney,

## 9 hole golf course extension, Derllys Court, D4/26410

Thank you for forwarding a copy of the plan of the area of the proposed golf course extension.

The advice given in 1992 to the then Carmarthen District Council regarding the archaeological and historical importance of Derllys Court and its environs has been vindicated by more recent discoveries. In 1992, in addition to general historical information on the significance of Derllys as an early Welsh estate centre, we had an antiquarian record of Roman finds from Tafarn-plwcca, and a cropmark of a small circular enclosure, close to where the Clubhouse and carpark is to be built. As you know, there was no prior field assessment of the 9 hole course, so no recommendations have been made regarding a programme of archaeological work (i.e. a watching brief) during clubhouse construction. But I think we must now regard that part of the scheme as 'water under the bridge' and concentrate on the proposed extension.

Since 1992 a hitherto unknown Roman Road leading west from Carmarthen has been discovered. It lies just south of the application area. This provides a solid context for the record of finds and cropmark. There is still much to be discovered of this very important new road line. In particular there is much we do not yet understand as to how the route was laid out and constructed. Roman roads, we all know, run in straight lines - but they do take slight angular changes of alignment approaching stream and river crossings and negotiating the flanks of hills. We have every reason to suppose that the summit of the hill over which the proposed golf course extension is to be constructed was used for position fixing of the road line.

So, in addition to the general presumption of utilising and preserving the original landforms that underlie the policies in the former DCC's *Golf in Dyfed* guidelines, there is the very specific objective of preserving the immediate topography of the Roman road line.

Now, whilst the layout of the new holes is shown on your plan, together with new plantings and retention of parts of the old hedge line, there is no contour information. It is not possible therefore to see whether these new holes, fairways, roughs, green and bunkers will involve significant terracing, raising of levels, flattening or rounding of the existing topography of the hill.

Our recommendation to Carmarthenshire County Council is therefore that the existing topography of the hill should be retained and used for the proposed extension. If they are satisfied on that count, we have no objection to the scheme. If not, we will recommend, under the provisions of PPG16 (Wales) and now PPG (Wales) that there be a condition in any consent the authority be minded to grant as follows:

"No development shall take place within (site specified) until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority."

The programme of archaeological work should involve a watching brief during the initial stages of any major earthmoving, both to make a record of levels and sightings before any location was levelled off, or indeed built up, and to rapidly check for any buried features or traces and make a record of them in advance of their removal. If there is to be significant alteration of the landform to which the County Council gives consent, we would expect to further provide the Planning Authority and the client with a draft Form of Agreement, more closely specifying the nature, duration and terms of any archaeological work.

Apologies for a rather lengthy letter, but I think its important for you to understand the reasons for our concerns and how they may best be mitigated. I enclose an annotated copy of our record map to illustrate our points of concern. I hope it illustrates why we very much recommend prior consultation and assessment of any archaeological implications in early stages of golf course planning.

I have spoken to Mr John Thomas of CCC this morning and I am copying this letter to him. I will be on holiday from 7th July but any further enquiries can be answered by Emyr Morgan, Development Control Officer.

Yours sincerely,



Heather James, BA, FSA, MIFA  
Principal Archaeological Officer,  
Heritage Management Section

Burnt flint  
Bronze Age  
Cooking hearth.

NEWCHURCH PH

Cropmark of ? small  
defended Iron Age  
farmstead. LONG  
1° 24' W

34

Cropmark of ? Iron  
Age fields & track

14311

14312

2135  
Castell-y-gaer

IRON AGE HILLFORT

ROMAN RD

Hafod-fach

Lodge

Pant-y-fraeg

Llithrach

Chap

Glyn Hebog

Roman Finds  
reported 1907

Nant Coedcae

Castle Glyn

DYFED

S M P

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST LTD

2268

Cropmark  
on 1952 photo

2125

Sight  
position

MANOR  
HOUSE

proposed  
extension

13



Derllys Court, Carmarthen

APPENDIX B

The DAT Generic Brief

## Brief for Archaeological Evaluation

Site:

Prepared for:

Site Location:

*This design brief is only valid for six months from the above date. After this period Cambria Archaeology- Heritage Management should be contacted. Any specification resulting from this brief will only be considered for the same period. Please note that this document is written for archaeological project managers to facilitate the production of an archaeological specification of works, it is not a tender document. Any response to this brief should follow IFA Standards and Guidelines.*

*The project manager is strongly advised to visit the site before completing their specification as there may be implications for accurately costing the project. The project manager must consult the Regional Sites and Monuments Record held by Cambria Archaeology Heritage Management as part of the assessment.*

### 1.0 Introduction

1.1

### 2.0 Site Description

2.1

### 3.0 The nature of the proposed development and archaeological requirements

3.1. The development proposal comprises

3.2 The areas which will require groundworks are

3.3 In order to fully appreciate the potential impact of the development on surviving archaeological remains and to identify appropriate mitigation schemes an intrusive archaeological evaluation is considered necessary.

3.4 **The results of the evaluation will be used to assess the impact of the proposed development and, where appropriate, will provide adequate information to identify the scale and scope of necessary mitigation. This may include the protection of areas of surviving archaeological remains through the prevention of development or the location and design of foundations and/or the full excavation, investigation and recording of archaeological remains threatened by the development.**

3.5 The evaluation will comprise two parts, desktop assessment of available documentary information and intrusive field evaluation.

3.6 **Desk-top assessment - This research should:**

1. Collate and assess relevant information held and referenced in the Regional Sites and Monuments Record.
2. Collate and assess all cartographic information relevant to the area.
3. Assess the topography and landuse of the area through maps and site visits.

4. Provide a detailed assessment of areas of archaeological potential and survival based on the above research and identify key locations where intrusive investigation should be undertaken to fully evaluate the archaeological potential of the site.

### 3.7 Field evaluation

The evaluation should include a programme of trial trenching to adequately sample the threatened area and will excavate sufficient archaeological features to conform with section 4 below.

## 4.0 Objectives

- 4.1 The evaluation should aim to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. An adequate representative sample of all areas where archaeological remains are potentially threatened should be studied. ACA-HM will be particularly concerned with the evaluation of site formation processes.
- 4.2 The project manager should arrange, through a suitably qualified expert the assessment of the environmental **potential** of the site through examination of suitable deposits. The project manager should keep Astrid Casteldine of Lampeter University, Cadw Environmental Specialist, informed of any positive results. The assessment of potential should consider guidelines set out in the following document: Association for Environmental Archaeology, 1995, *Environmental Archaeology and archaeological evaluations in England*. Working Papers of the Association of Environmental Archaeology 2, 8 pp, York: Association for Environmental Archaeology.
- 4.3 The evaluation should also carefully consider any artefactual or economic information and provide an assessment of the viability, for further study, of such information. It will be particularly important to provide an indication of the relative significance of such material for any subsequent decision making regarding mitigation strategies.
- 4.4 The evaluation should include a comprehensive assessment of regional context within which the archaeological evidence rests and should aim to highlight any relevant research issues within a national and regional research framework.
- 4.5 The evaluation should provide a predictive model of surviving archaeological deposits detailing zones of relative importance against known development proposals. An impact assessment should also be provided.
- 4.6 If any areas of analysis are not considered appropriate the report will detail justification for their exclusion.

## 5.0 Requirements

- 5.1 The project must be undertaken by an archaeological team of recognised competence, fully experienced in work of this character and formally acknowledged by CA-HM, advisors to Carmarthenshire County Council. Details, including the name, qualifications and experience of the project director and all other key project personnel (including specialist staff) will be communicated to CA-HM as part of a **project specification**. The contractor will be expected to produce a reasonably detailed project specification although a full programme of works will not be required. This specification must:
  1. be supported by a research design which sets out the site specific objectives of the archaeological works.



2. detail the proposed works as precisely as is reasonably possible, indicating clearly on plan their location and extent.
  3. provide a timetable for the proposed works including a safety margin in the event of bad weather or any other unforeseen circumstances that may effect this timetabling.
- 5.2 The archaeological project manager must satisfy themselves that all constraints to groundworks have been identified, including the siting of live services, Tree Preservation Orders and public footpaths. **Cambria Archaeology Heritage Management take no responsibility for the inclusion or exclusion of such information within this brief.**
- 5.3 Human remains must be left *in situ*, covered and protected when discovered. No further investigation should normally be permitted and Cambria Archaeology - Heritage Management and the local Coroner must be informed immediately. If removal is essential it can only take place under the appropriate Home Office and Environmental Health regulations.
- 5.4 All aspects of the evaluation shall be conducted in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologist's *Code of Conduct* and the IFA's *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*.
- 5.5 Arrangements of the long term storage and deposition of all artefacts must be agreed with the landowner and CA-HM before the commencement of fieldwork.
- 5.6 The site archive should conform to the National Monuments Record (Wales) agreed structure (guidelines available) and be deposited within an approved store (normally this will be the appropriate local museum and/or NMR) on completion of site analysis and report production.
- 5.7 A full report of the results should be prepared and presented to CA-HM normally within 6 weeks of the completion of site works, unless otherwise agreed. The report must include the following:-
1. A concise non-technical summary of the project results.
  2. Location plan of trenches and other fieldwork in relation to the proposed development.
  3. Where relevant, section and plan drawings showing depth of deposits including present ground level with Ordinance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
  4. Written descriptions of all features and deposits revealed and investigated, and their considered interpretation.
  5. Statement of the local and regional context of archaeological remains identified.
  6. Full specialist descriptions of artefacts and ecofacts discoveries made during the works.
  7. Mapped archaeological potential at a scale of at least 1: 500.
  8. A plan modelling surviving archaeological deposits.
- 5.5 In addition two copies of the final report should be provided for the Sites and Monuments Record
- 5.6 Cambria Archaeology - Heritage Management is responsible for monitoring all archaeological work within Carmarthenshire. The contractor must inform CA-HM in writing detailing proposed start dates for the project. Once notified a Project Record Number will be allocated prior to on site work commencing, to be used in all site records.
- 5.7 Any changes to the specification that the contractor may wish to make after approval should be communicated to the CA-HM and approved on behalf of the Carmarthenshire County Council.

- 5.8 CA-HM should be kept regularly informed about development both during the site works and subsequent post-excavation work.

**As part of our desire to provide a quality service to all our clients we would welcome any comments you may have on the content or presentation of this design brief. Please address them to the author below.**

Louise Austin -Head of Heritage Management  
Cambria Archaeology  
The Shire Hall  
Carmarthen Street  
Llandeilo  
SA19 6AF

Derllys Court, Carmarthen

APPENDIX C

The Archaeological Specification



# DERLLYS COURT GOLF CLUB CARMARTHEN

## SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Carmarthenshire County Council  
Planning Application No. D4/26410/26

Prepared for Mr. R. Walters by  
MONMOUTH ARCHAEOLOGY

Contact Address :  
Stephen Clarke, M.B.E., F.S.A., M.I.F.A.  
The Town Wall, St. James Square, Monmouth, Gwent, NP25 3DN  
Telephone : (01600) 714136

## **1. Introduction**

1.1 Mr. R. Walters has commissioned Monmouth Archaeology to carry out an archaeological evaluation in connection with the proposed golf course extension at Derllys Court Golf Club, Llysonnen Road, Carmarthen.

1.2 The archaeological advisors to Carmarthenshire County Council (formerly Carmarthen District Council), Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology - Heritage Management (Dyfed Archaeological Trust) feels that there may be a significant archaeological resource in the development area.

1.3 The groundworks for the development proposals consist of the excavation of nine greens and two ponds together with some cuttings through the hedge banks.

1.4 The planning consent condition on the development allowed for an archaeological watching brief but as the proposed groundworks would be carried out over some six months Monmouth Archaeology suggested that the best way to safeguard the archaeology would be to carry out an archaeological evaluation prior to the start of the development. This was agreed by Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology subject to the production of an acceptable archaeological specification by Monmouth Archaeology.

1.5 The proposed archaeological evaluation would be carried out by Monmouth Archaeology in accordance with a brief set by Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology - Heritage Management.

1.6 The proposed extension to the golf course lies south of Derllys Court and north of the Roman Road leading west from Carmarthen. The fields here are presently pasture land and are separated by hedges based on banks composed largely of glacially deposited boulders and pebbles.

## **2. Objectives**

2.1 The objectives of the proposed evaluation will be to investigate the extent and distribution of the potential archaeological remains that may exist on the development site.

2.2 The evaluation report will provide sufficiently detailed information to allow decisions to be taken as to what appropriate measures should be taken to safeguard the archaeological resource. Any archaeological remains may be preserved in situ or preserved by record.

### **3. Scope of the work**

3.1 The whole of the application area will be considered in relation to the immediate locality and the wider regional context. All remains of potential interest will be examined regardless of date with particular attention to the areas that would be disturbed during the proposed development.

### **4. Methodology**

4.1 The evaluation will consist of a desk top study and the excavation of trial trenches.

### **5. The Desk Top Study**

5.1 Sufficient documentary work will be undertaken so that the site can be assessed in its historic setting.

5.2 Reference to the Sites and Monuments Record together with local written sources and records will be made. Cartographic sources will be consulted and assessed in conjunction with on-site observations to identify key sites where intrusive archaeological investigations should take place in order to evaluate the archaeological potential of those sites.

### **6. The Trial Excavations.**

6.1 The intrusive archaeological investigations will consist of nine trial trenches on the proposed greens; two trial trenches on the pond sites and four archaeologically conducted excavations through hedge banks.

6.2 The trial trenches on the nine greens would be 20m x 2m which would section the c400 square metres excavations proposed. The trial excavations on each of the two ponds are proposed as four aligned trenches measuring 20m x 2m each across the c150m long excavation sites.

6.3 The trial excavations have been positioned so as to adequately investigate the archaeology of the evaluation area and are shown on the map included in this specification.

6.4 The evaluation trial trenches will be excavated to the top of the archaeological horizon using a machine fitted with a toothless bucket. All areas will be cleaned to an appropriate standard to prove the presence or absence of



archaeological features. In each area the excavation of the minimum number of archaeological features will allow assessment of the archaeological potential. All trenches will be excavated in one area to prove the natural horizon.

6.5 Recording of archaeological contexts will be undertaken using a continuous numbered context system on pro-forma recording sheets.

6.6 Written and drawn records will be kept, plans (other than site location) will be drawn to a scale of 1:20. The photographic record will consist of b/w and colour prints of 35mm format taken throughout the project.

6.7 Drawn records of any significant archaeological deposits will be related to Ordnance Survey datum and published boundaries where appropriate.

6.8 All artefacts recovered during the project will be retained and be closely related to the contexts from which they originated. All typologically distinct and closely datable finds will be recorded three dimensionally where possible.

6.9 Any features containing deposits of environmental or technological significance will be sampled and examined by a suitably qualified expert. Astrid Castledine, Cadw environmental specialist will be informed of any positive environmental results.

6.10 Although it is not expected that human remains will be found on the site, any occurrence will be dealt with by initially leaving in-situ, by covering and protecting, and if removal is necessary, the appropriate Home Office permission obtained and Environmental Health regulations observed. Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology - Heritage Management will be informed immediately of the discovery of human remains.

6.11 Although the requirements for conservation of artefacts is unpredictable Monmouth Archaeology will undertake to ensure that the minimum standards are achieved as in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute of Conservation's *"Guidelines for the treatment of Finds from Archaeological Sites"*.

6.12 The archaeological advisors to Carmarthenshire County Council : Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology - Heritage Management will be informed, in writing, of the proposed start date of the archaeological intrusive investigations. Any changes to this specification will need to be agreed by Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology - Heritage Management and Carmarthenshire County Council.

9.5 Once completed a copy of the report, as prepared by Monmouth Archaeology, will be submitted to Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology - Heritage Management and another copy to Carmarthenshire County Council for their approval. A further copy will be deposited with the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). Notes of any confidentiality imposed by the client will be included.

9.6 A summary of the work will be submitted to *"Archaeology in Wales"* no later than one year after completion of the work.

9.7 The contractor, Monmouth Archaeology, will arrange with an Carmarthenshire County Council Museum Service an agreement for the deposition of the completed archive. This will be confirmed in the final report.

9.8 Although there may be a period of client confidentiality, the site archive and report will be deposited with the Museum Service within 6 months.

## **10. The Archaeological Contractors**

10.1 The work will be undertaken by Monmouth Archaeology under the direction of Stephen Clarke who is a Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists and who has been validated by the Council of the Institute in the areas of competence of *Archaeological Field Practice* and *Finds and Environmental Study, Collections Research and Conservation*. The contractors have experience and a proven track record in archaeological assessment, excavation and publication.

10.2 The archaeological contractors will adhere to the Institute of Field Archaeologist's *"Code of Conduct"* and the *"Code of Approved Practice for the regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology"*.

10.3 The personnel involved in the fieldwork and documentary research will be supervised by Stephen Clarke.

10.4 The personnel involved in the archaeological evaluation have had previous experience of this work and are : Mr. Brian Milford, Mrs. F. Taylor, P.I.F.A.; Mrs. J. Bray, P.I.F.A.; Mr. S. Wilson, B.A., Affil.I.F.A.

10.4 Monmouth Archaeology holds Public Liability insurance through Royal Sun Alliance, 29 Newport Road, Cardiff.

10.5 The copyright for the report shall remain with the Monmouth Archaeology.