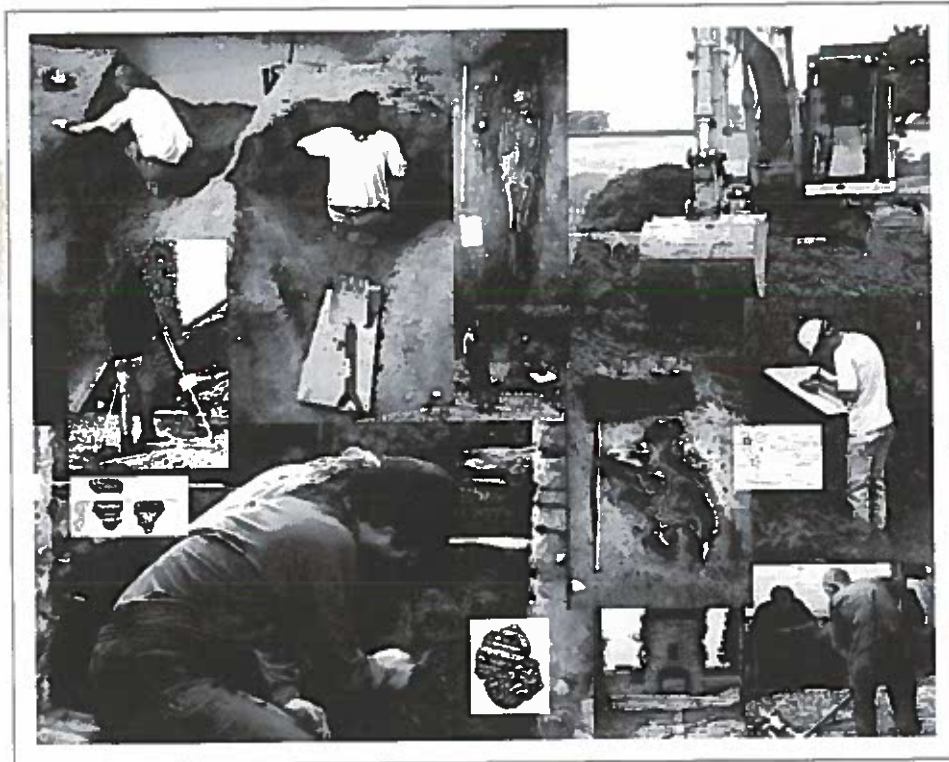


CAMBRIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECTS LTD.

Land adjacent to Maes Y Coed, New Inn, Pencader.

Archaeological Watching Brief



By
Phil Evans BA (Hons)



CAP Report No. 232

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

**Land Adjacent to Maes Y Coed,
New Inn, Pencader.**

BY **PHIL EVANS, BA(Hons.)**

Prepared for:
Mr. Len Alban
Gwynfaes
New Inn
Pencader
SA39 9AZ

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Project No: 409

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Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd
Old Chapel
Llanidloes
Powys SY18 6JR

Telephone: 01686 413857 / Fax: 01686 411280
e-mail: Cambrian-Archaeology.co.uk

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Plate 02: Photograph of southern foundation trench.

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Non Technical Summary

The following report is the result of work undertaken by Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd. on behalf of Len Alban on a new housing development at New Inn, Pencader, Carmarthenshire. The site lies on the main road between Carmarthen and Lampeter some 2 miles northeast of Pencader.

During the course of the watching brief no archaeological features or deposits were revealed.

1 Introduction

The following text details the findings and work undertaken by Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd. on an archaeological watching brief on land adjacent to Maes Y Coed, New Inn, Pencader, Carmarthenshire (SN4710036600) (Figs. 1, 2 & 3).

CAP Ltd. were invited to submit a tender for an archaeological watching brief, in accordance with the project brief prepared by Cambria Archaeology – Heritage Management (CA-HM). This tender was successful and the work was carried out accordingly by CAP Ltd. in December 2002.

All works were undertaken in accordance with both the IFA's *Standards and guidance: for an archaeological watching brief* and current Health and Safety legislation.

1.1 Planning Background

An archaeological condition was attached to planning application TM/01884 in line with PG (W) and the Welsh Office Circular 60/96 – 'Planning and Historic Environment: Archaeology'.

1.2 Site Description

The site of the proposed application is one of archaeological interest as the site may contain the buried archaeology containing the possible remains of a Roman Road. Known segments of the road exist at: SN48369388246 to 4812938553; SN4776637858 to 4767837658; SN4762537533 to 4759637492; SN4748537250 to 4733236944. The line of the road runs in a northeast-southwest direction roughly following the Teifi Valley (Fig. 4).

1.3 Soils and Geology

According to the soil survey of England and Wales the main soil association is that of Denbigh 1 which is a well drained fine loamy and fine silty soil over rock. The underlying geology is that of the Llandovery Series.

1.3 Landuse

Prior to the development the land was used as rough pasture.

2 Aims and Objectives

In accordance with IFA's *Standards and guidance*, the primary objective of this watching brief was to ensure that any previously unrecorded archaeological features and deposits exposed during the ground disturbance works and subsequent development of the site were adequately recorded and interpreted.

3 Methodology

A mechanical excavator with a 1m wide toothed bucket was used for the removal of topsoil, surface material and vegetation to a maximum depth of 0.2 m.

The archaeological contractor then '*field walked*' the area to recover any dateable material which was evident on the surface and to identify any exposed features.

After this initial ground clearance, the foundation trenches were excavated using a mechanical digger with a 0.6m toothed bucket, to a maximum depth of 1m below the present ground surface.

Inspection and limited cleaning of the trenches was then undertaken in order to ascertain whether or not archaeological features were present.

Where features were present, limited excavation was undertaken to establish the date, depth, preservation, extent, function and relationship to other features.

Recording of the trenches was in three formats:

- i) *Photographic record* - Photographs were taken in 35mm Colour slide and Digital formats
- ii) *Drawn record* - Site drawings, plans and sections, were produced at scales of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 on drafting film. Finished drawings have been related to Ordnance Survey datum and published boundaries where appropriate.
- iii) *Written record* - Written records were produced using a continuous numbering sequence for all contexts.

An environmental sampling and sampling and processing strategy was in place should the archaeological deposits warrant it.

All works were undertaken in accordance with both the IFA's *Standards and guidance: for an archaeological watching brief* and current Health and Safety legislation.

4 Results of the Watching Brief

Numbers in brackets in the following section refer to context numbers allocated during the watching brief.

The initial topsoil stripping (Plate 1) of the site revealed no archaeological features or deposits. The underlying subsoil (2) consisted of a red/brown fine silty clay and extended to a depth of 0.4m below the present ground surface. Excavation of the foundation trenches revealed only the natural bedrock between 0.4m to 1m below the present ground surface (Plates 2 and 3).

5 Conclusions

During the watching brief no archaeological features or deposits were located within the development area. It is therefore likely that any remains of the suspected Roman Road lie to the south of the development area possibly following the line of the existing road.

6 Acknowledgements

Thanks to Kevin Blockley for his help and advice during the compilation of this report and also to Len Alban and the on site contractors for their help and compliance.

7 References

7.1 References

Brief for an Archaeological Watching Brief, Cambria Archaeology Heritage Management. TM/01884 Proposed Residential Dwelling on land adjacent to Maes Y Coed, New Inn, Pencader.

IFA Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief

7.2 Cartographic Sources

British Geological Service, 1979, *Geological Survey Ten Mile Map: South Sheet*. BGS.

Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1983, *Soils of England and Wales: Sheet 2 Wales*. SSEW.

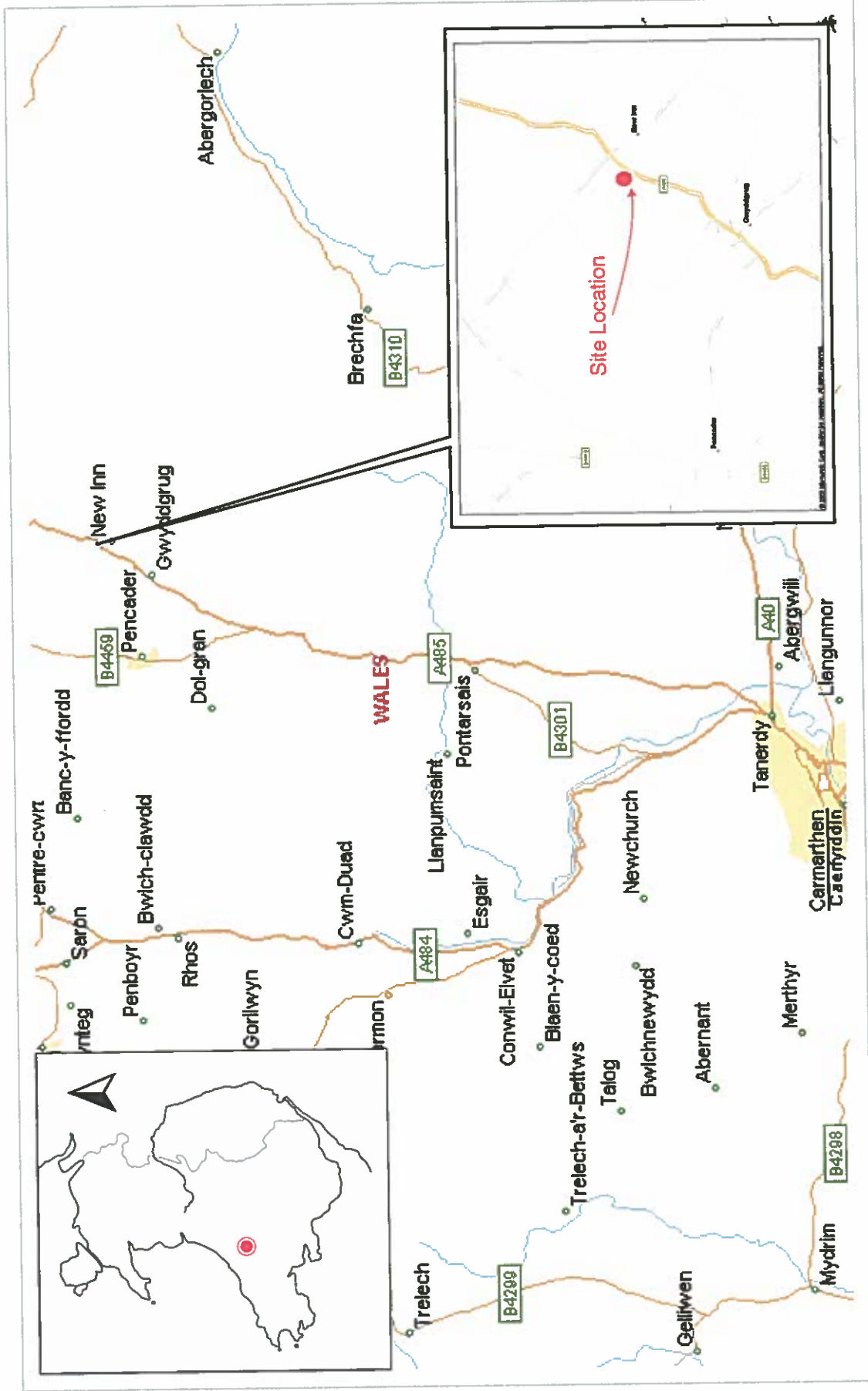


Fig 1: General Location Plan

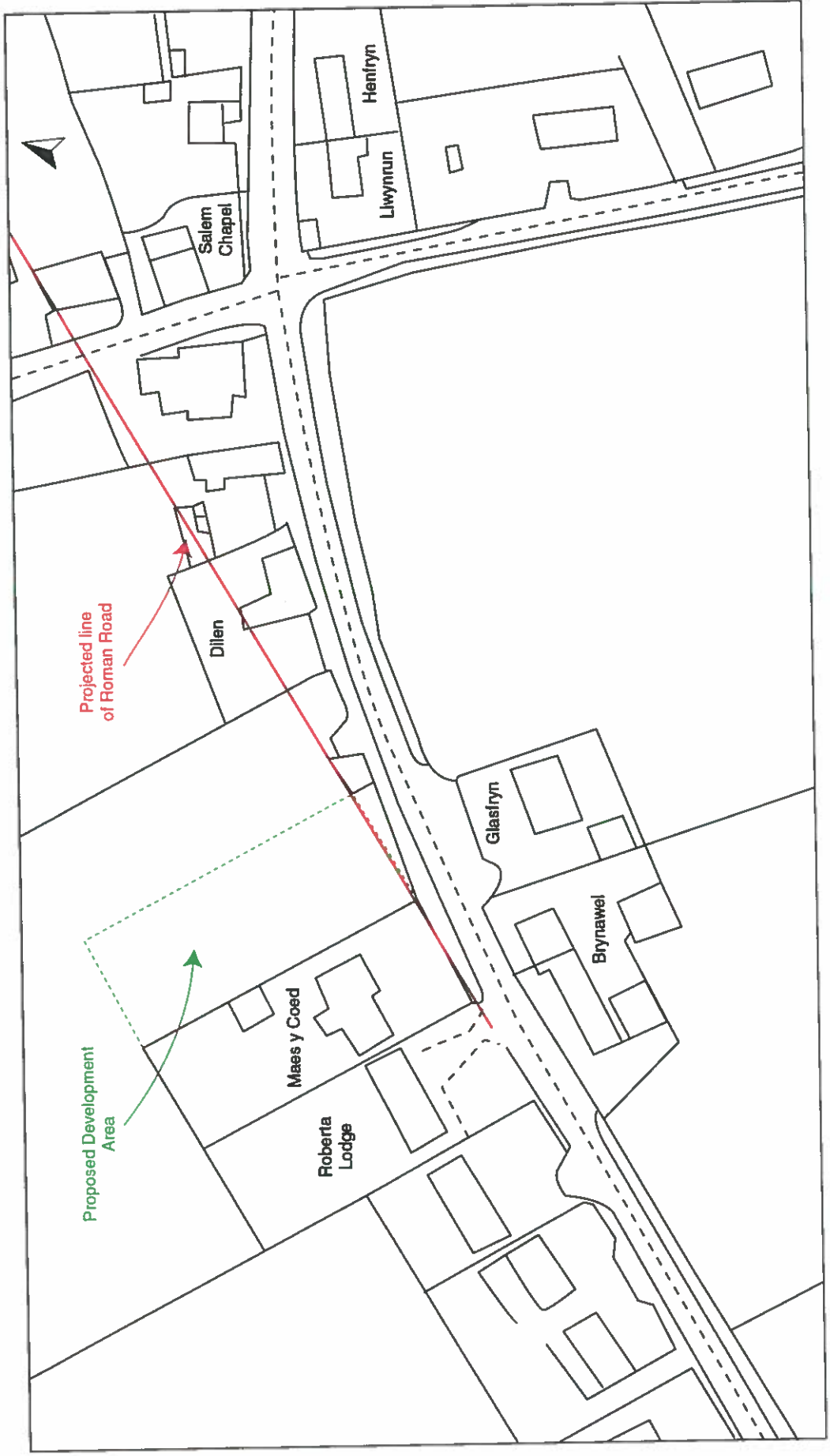


Figure 02: Detailed site location plan

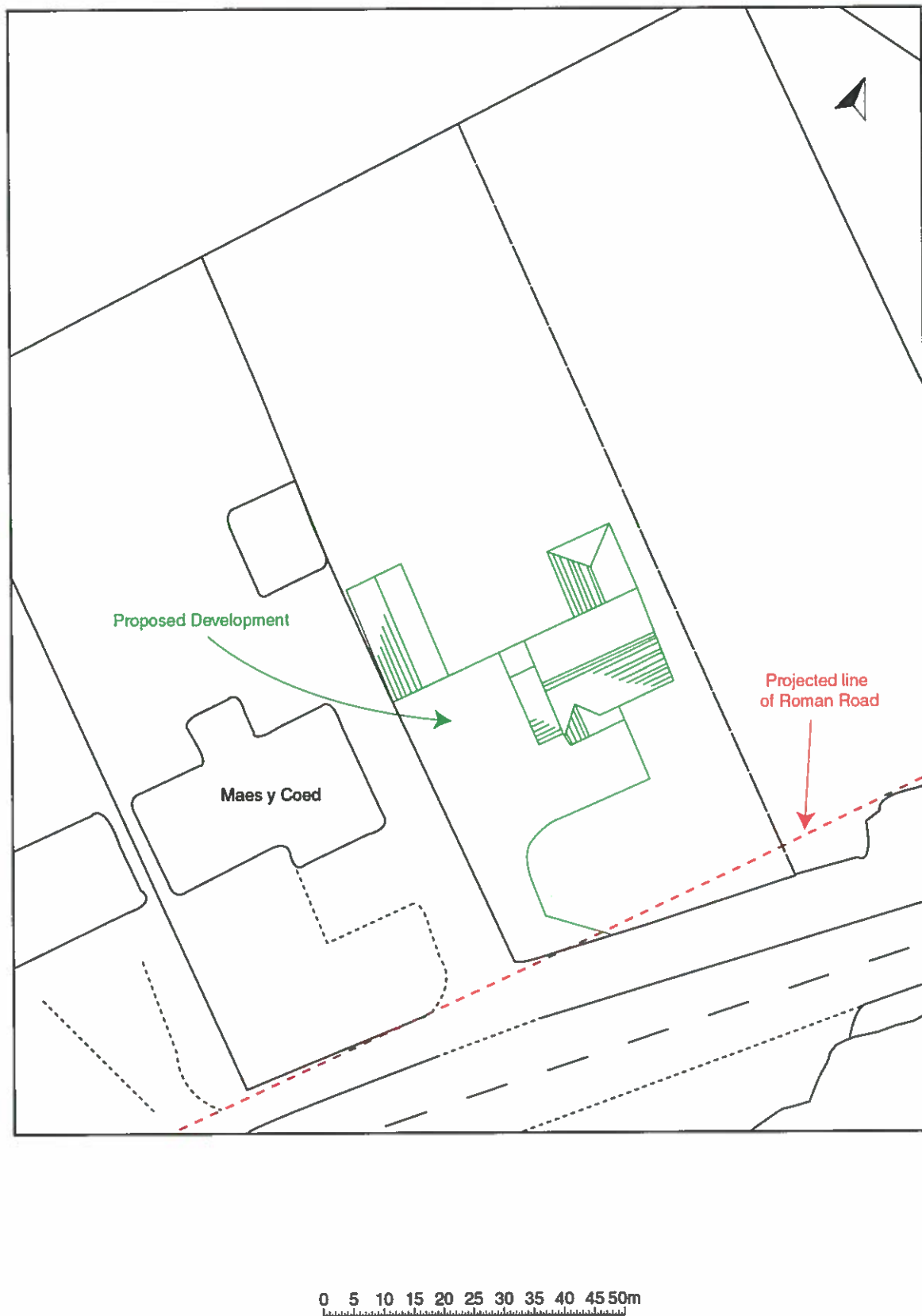


Fig 03: Plan of proposed development

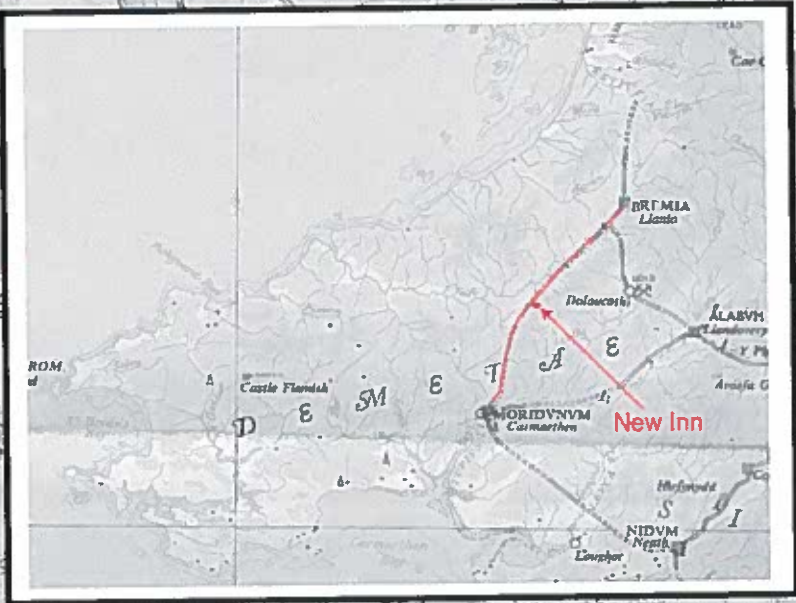


Fig 04: Map showing position of known areas of Roman Road around the development area with inset detailing projected road from Carmarthen to Llanio.



Plate 01: General view of development area after topsoil strip, scale 2m, looking northwest.



Plate 03: Photograph detailing typical section of foundation trenches, scale 2m, looking north.



Plate 02: Photograph of southern foundation trench, scale 2m looking west.



APPENDIX I: **IFA Standards and Guidelines**

ii) IFA Standards and Guidance

THE INSTITUTE OF FIELD ARCHAEOLOGISTS (IFA)

Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief

The Standard

An archaeological watching brief will record the archaeological resource during development within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices. These will satisfy the stated aims of the project, and comply with the *Code of conduct, Code of approved practice for the regulation of contractual arrangements in field archaeology*, and other relevant by-laws of the IFA.

Definition of an archaeological watching brief

The definition of an archaeological watching brief is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive.

This definition and *Standard* do not cover chance observations, which should lead to an appropriate archaeological project being designed and implemented, nor do they apply to monitoring for preservation of remains *in situ*.

Purpose of a watching brief

The purpose of a watching brief is:

- ◆ to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works.
- ◆ to provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.

A watching brief is not intended to reduce the requirement for excavation or preservation of known or inferred deposits, and it is intended to guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.

The objective of a watching brief is to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on the site.

The Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief was formally adopted as IFA approved practice at the Annual General Meeting of the Institute held on 14th October 1994.



APPENDIX II: **Chronological Divisions**

_____ **MODERN (1901 -)**

_____ **INDUSTRIAL (1700 - 1901)**

_____ **POST-MEDIEVAL (1547 - 1700)**

_____ **MEDIEVAL (1066 - 1547)**

_____ **EARLY MEDIEVAL (AD 450 - 1066)**

_____ **ROMAN BRITAIN (AD 43 - AD 450)**

_____ **IRON AGE (700 BC - AD 43)**

_____ **BRONZE AGE (2300 - 700 BC)**

_____ **NEOLITHIC (4000 - 2300 BC)**

_____ **MESOLITHIC (10,000 - 4000 BC)**

_____ **PALAEOLITHIC (500,000 - 10,000 BC)**

Chronological Divisions as used by the Council for British Archaeology (CBA),
in the *British and Irish Archaeological Bibliography*.



APPENDIX III: **Summary of Context**

SUMMARY OF CONTEXT

- 1** **Topsoil**
- 2** **Red/brown silty clay**
- 3** **Natural bedrock**



APPENDIX IV:
Archive Cover Sheet

ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

Site Name:	Land Adjacent to Maes Y Coed, New Inn, Pencader
Site Code:	LAMC/02/WB
PRN:	N/A
NPRN :	N/A
SAM:	N/A
Other Ref No:	N/A
NGR:	SN47103660
Site Type:	Housing Development
Project Type:	Archaeological Watching Brief
Project Officer:	Phil Evans
Project Dates:	1 st December 2002
Categories Present:	N/A
Location of Original Archive:	N/A
Location of duplicate Archives:	CAP Ltd Office
Number of Finds Boxes:	0
Location of Finds:	N/A
Museum Reference:	Not assigned
Copyright:	CAP Ltd
Restrictions to access:	None