



Maesdewi

Llandybie

Ammanford

CARMARTHENSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation



March 2007

Hereford Archaeology Series 750

EXCAVATION•RESEARCH•GEOPHYSICS•ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY

**Maesdewi
Llandybie
Ammanford
CARMARTHENSHIRE**

Archaeological Evaluation

Text and Site Work
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Maesdewi
Llandybie
AMMANFORD
CARMARTHENSHIRE
(NGR SN 6192 1458)

Archaeological Evaluation

1. Summary

The project was undertaken to assess the archaeological potential of the site prior to the client purchasing the land, with a view to constructing a dwelling and garage on the site. The project was also undertaken to satisfy a planning condition attached to the permission to build on the site.

Two trenches were excavated.

No archaeology was present on the site.

Mixed subsoil deposits suggest that the area has been extensively ploughed in the past, possibly removing any evidence for archaeological activity.

2. Introduction

Archaeological Investigations Ltd. was commissioned by Mr. G. A. Hill to undertake an evaluation of the surviving archaeology on an area of land within the grounds of Maesdewi, a detached house on the outskirts of Llandybie, Carmarthenshire (NGR SN 6192 1458) (Fig. 1).

Mr. Hill was considering purchasing the land to construct a two storey dwelling with garage (Planning Ref. AM/04925, E/14511). Prior to purchase, the client wanted to know the extent of surviving archaeology as there was an archaeological condition attached to the planning permission for the site. A proposal was submitted to the local planning authority and their archaeological advisor. The scheme of archaeological work was implemented following approval of the submitted scheme so that the works would also satisfy any planning requirements relating to archaeology.

The site covers an area of approximately 340m² to the northwest of Maesdewi house. The site is currently lawn with a concrete block and tin sheet barn to the east, and a small vegetable bed to the west. The site is surrounded by pasture land.

Two evaluation trenches were excavated on the 12th March 2007.

3. Archaeological background

No previous archaeological work has been undertaken on the site itself.

A previous resident of Maesdewi recalls that during excavation of the foundations for an extension to the house in 1912 a human skeleton and three Roman coins were discovered (SMR 13183).

There are no known sites associated directly with Roman occupation in the area, such as forts or roads, but finds of Roman coins in the area show that Roman influence was felt.

The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891 (Fig. 3) shows that the site at this time was located within farmland and the gardens of Maesdewi have subsequently encroached on the fields meaning that the site now lies within the garden.

4. Aims and objectives

The main aim of the project was to investigate the nature of and potential impact on any archaeological remains present on the proposed development site and provide a satisfactory record of such.

The main objectives were to

- Identify the date and nature of features and deposits.
- Assess survival, condition and significance of features, deposits or structures in the study area.

- Produce a record of the features and deposits.
- Assess, analyse and report on the findings of the work.

5. Method

Two trenches were excavated in total. Due to the constraints of the site, the lengths of these trenches were shorter than those stated within the project design (Fig. 2).

Trench 1 was located between the tin roofed barn at the east of the site and the boundary hedge at the northwest of the site. It measured eight metres in length and was orientated on a northwest-southeast axis. Trench 2 started from the northwest end of Trench 1 and continued in a south-westerly direction along the line of the hedge for 9.4m. Due to the presence of a water pipe a 2.4m break was left in the trench before it continued along the hedge line for a further 12.60m. All trenches were 1.3m wide and excavated using a tracked machine with a toothless bucket. The machine was operated by the client, Mr. Hill.

Trenches were excavated to the level of the undisturbed natural subsoil under archaeological supervision.

Both trenches were recorded in the same manner. Section drawings were produced at a scale of 1:20 of selected areas of the trenches. These are representative of deposits across the trench. The location of the trenches was recorded by measuring from known points present on the plan of the site produced by the building surveyor. Photographs were taken of the trenches in plan and section using 35mm colour and black white film. Digital photographs were also taken.

Modern pottery was dated on site and not retained.

Levels were taken in the base of trenches. These relate to a TBM established by the building surveyor.

6. Results

6.1 Trench 1 (Fig. 4)

Trench 1 contained no deposits or features of archaeological note.

| Context | Type | Description | Length (m) | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Finds |
|---------|---------|---|------------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| 101 | Topsoil | Dark Brown/Black Silt Loam | Site | Site | 0.15-0.20 | Modern Pottery |
| 102 | Surface | Gravel/Hardcore yard/path | 8+ | 1.3+ | 0.1 | None |
| 103 | Subsoil | Dirty yellow clay. Mix of natural and topsoil | Site | Site | 0.4 max | None |

Deposit (102) seems likely to relate to the farmyard that occupied the rear of Maesdewi prior to it becoming a residential property. No finds were found within the deposit.

6.2 Trench 2 (Fig. 5)

Trench 2 contained no deposits or features of archaeological note.

| Context | Type | Description | Length (m) | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Finds |
|---------|---------|---|------------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| 201 | Topsoil | Dark Brown/Black Silt Loam | Site | Site | 0.15-0.20 | Modern Pottery |
| 202 | Subsoil | Dirty yellow clay. Mix of natural and topsoil | Site | Site | 0.4 max | None |

7. Conclusion

No significant archaeology was found during the evaluation. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map shows that in 1891 the grounds of Maesdewi occupied a smaller area than today, and the evaluation trenches are located on what were originally open fields to the rear of the property. The mixed nature of contexts (103) and (202) would suggest that the area has been ploughed in relatively recent times. However, if archaeological activity had taken place in the area, it is likely to have been removed by later ploughing.

8. Bibliography

Boucher, A. and Craddock-Bennett, L. (2007) *Maesdewi, Llandybie, Ammanford, Camarthenshire. Project design for archaeological evaluation*. Archaeological Investigations Ltd.

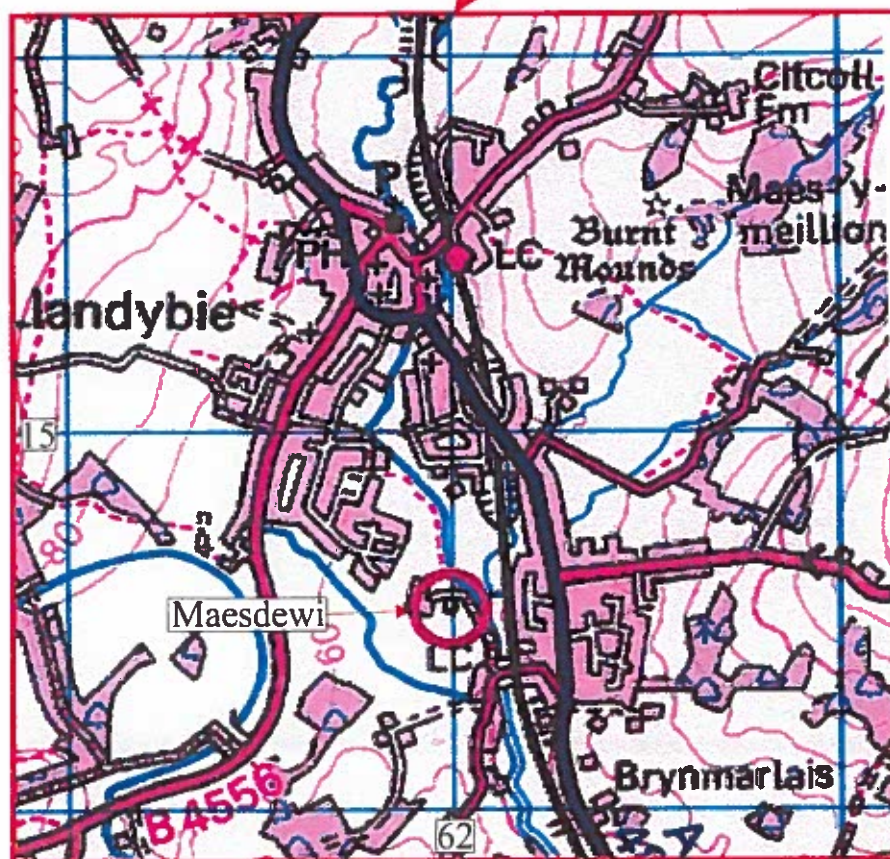
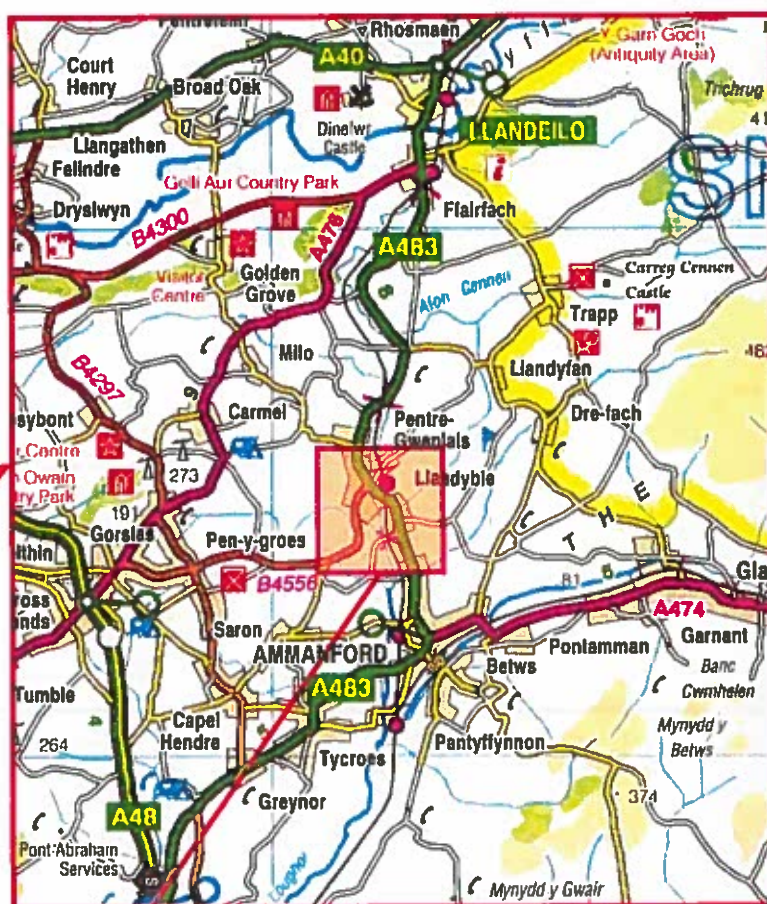
Appendix 1 Site Archive

The archive will be held by **The Royal Commission of Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, Aberystwyth** *Archive Code: MDLB07*

- 1x Copy of this report
- 1x Film of black and white photographs and negatives
- 1x Film of colour photographs and negatives
- 1x Sheet of drawing film with site drawings
- 1x Context register
- 5x Context sheets
- 1x Drawing register
- 1x Levels register



Site location map



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Figure 1

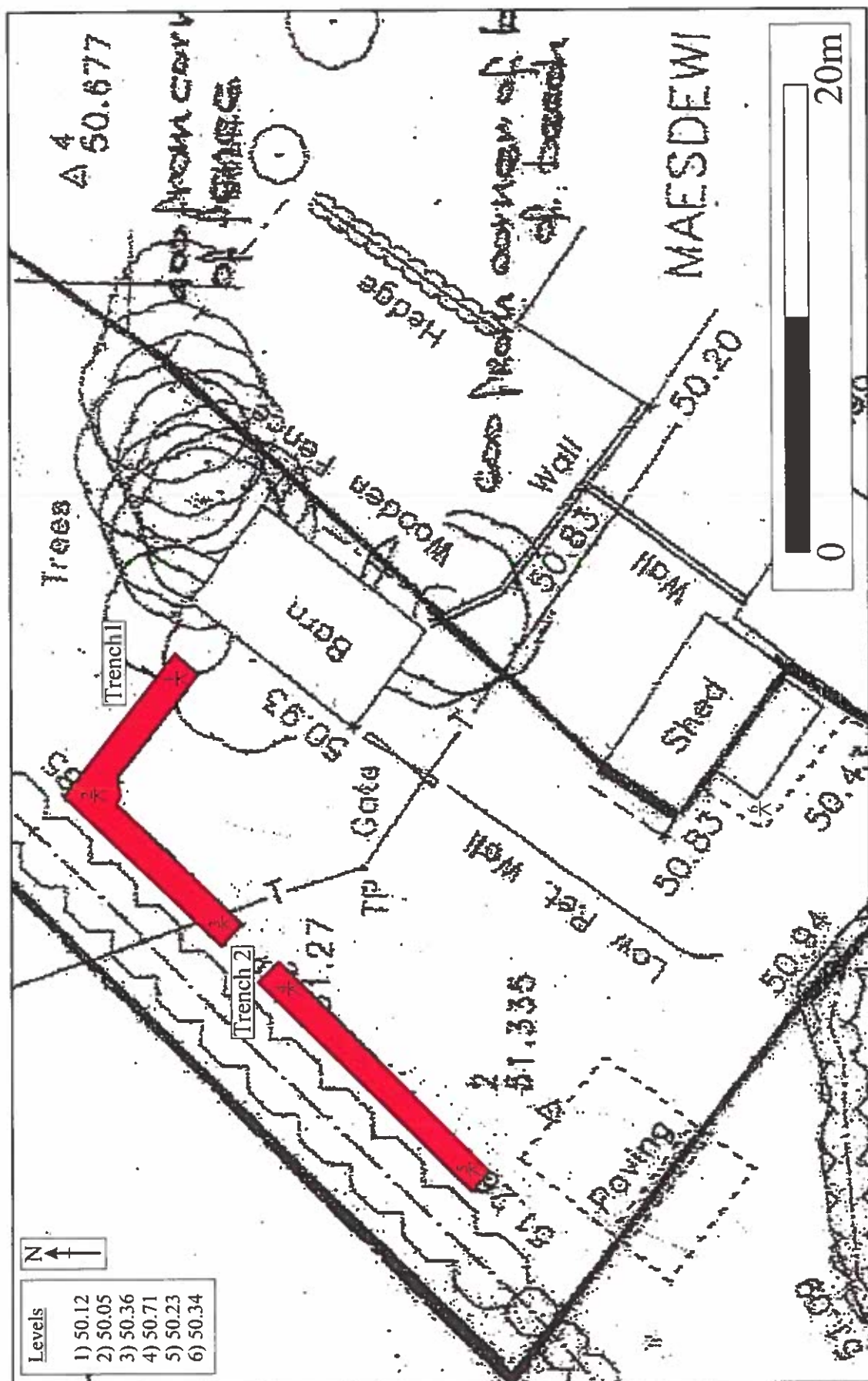
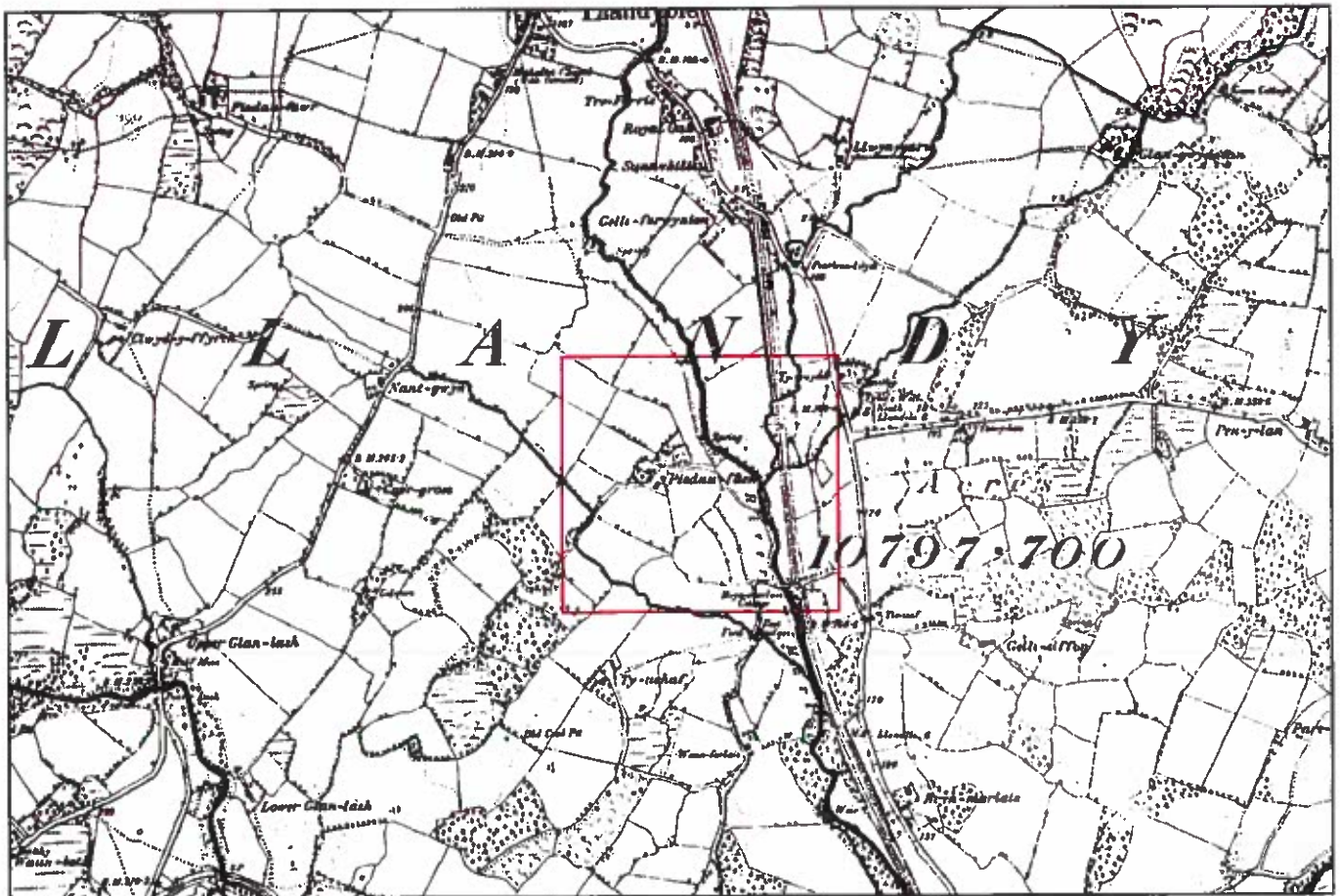


Figure 2 Trench location plan



1st edition Ordnance Survey map (1891)

■ Site

Figure 3

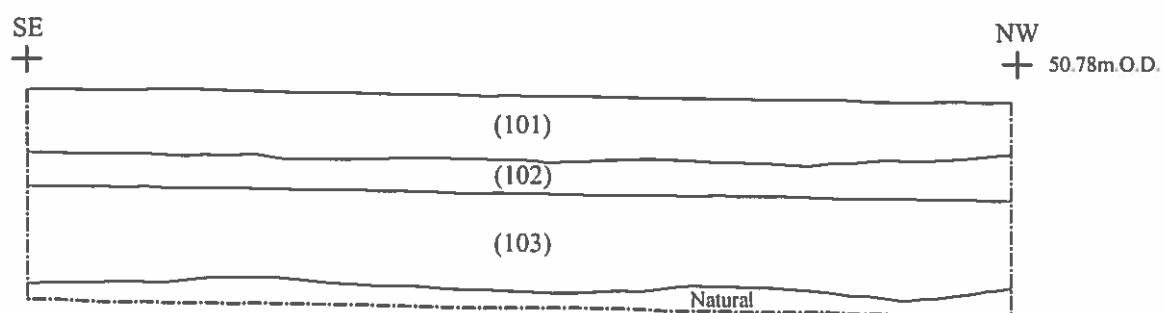


Figure 4 Trench 1 NE facing section

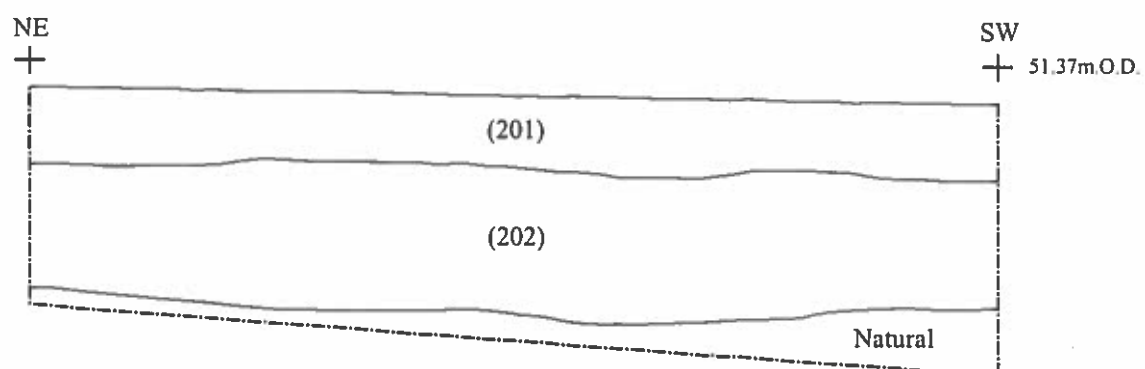


Figure 5 Trench 2 NW facing section



Section drawings