# Evaluation of Earthwork Feature, Rhydygwydd, Taliaris, Carmarthenshire



Report by: Trysor

For: Seren Energy

May 2014



# Evaluation of Earthwork Feature, Rhydygwydd, Taliaris, Carmarthenshire

By

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Trysor Project No. 2014/370

For: Seren Energy

# May 2014

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Cover photograph: The evaluation trench showing the stones of the cairn, looking east

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RHIF YR ADRODDIAD - REPORT NUMBER: Trysor 2014/370

**DYDDIAD** 23<sup>ain</sup> Mai 2014 **DATE** 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2014

Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan bartneriad Trysor. Mae wedi ei gael yn gywir ac yn derbyn ein sêl bendith.

This report was prepared by the Trysor partners. It has been checked and received our approval.

Jenny Hall

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PAUL SAMBROOK MIFA Paul Sambrook.

Croesawn unrhyw sylwadau ar gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn.

We welcome any comments on the content or structure of this report.

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Trysor is a Registered Organisation with the Institute for Archaeologists and both partners are Members of the Institute for Archaeologists, <u>www.archaeologists.net</u>.

Jenny Hall (BSc Joint Hons., Geology and Archaeology, MIfA) had 12 years excavation experience, which included undertaking watching briefs prior to becoming the Sites and Monuments Record Manager for a Welsh Archaeological Trust for 10 years. She has been an independent archaeologist since 2004 undertaking a variety of work that includes upland survey, desk-based appraisals and assessments, and watching briefs.

Paul Sambrook (BA Joint Hons., Archaeology and Welsh, MIfA, PGCE) has extensive experience as a fieldworker in Wales. He was involved with Cadw's pan-Wales Deserted Rural Settlements Project for 7 years. He also undertook Tir Gofal field survey work and watching briefs. He has been an independent archaeologist since 2004 undertaking a variety of work including upland survey, desk-based appraisals/assessments, and watching briefs.

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# 1. Summary

1.1 In March 2014, Trysor undertook an evaluation of a small earthwork feature at Rhydygwydd, identified during an appraisal of the impact on the historic environment from a single wind turbine, (Hall & Sambrook, 2014a).

1.2 The purpose of the evaluation was to establish the origins and nature of the earthwork mound, in particular whether it was natural or the product of human activity.

1.3 The turf and topsoil were removed from a small trench across the southern part of the mound. A layer of stones was revealed which established that the feature was not natural and no further excavation was undertaken.

1.4 The origin of the mound was identified as the product of human activity, not natural processes. The client made changes to the groundworks necessary for the proposed turbine and Trysor revised the appraisal in line with those (Hall, J & Sambrook, P, 2014c).

## 2. Copyright

2.1 Trysor holds the copyright of this report and of the paper and digital archive. Further paper copies may be made of this report without gaining permission to reproduce but it must be noted that Figure 1 and 2 include other copyright material and should not be copied.

#### **3. Introduction**

3.1 Oliver Buxton of Seren Energy Ltd, 1 High Street, Clydach, Swansea, SA6 5LG commissioned Trysor heritage consultants to undertake an evaluation of an earthwork mound at SN6248528063, on land to the north of Rhydygwydd farmstead.

3.2 The mound, ID number 33, was identified during the walkover as part of an historic environment appraisal for a single wind turbine undertaken by Trysor in February 2014 (Hall & Sambrook, 2014a). It was a low mound, with an occasional stone protruding through the grass cover. It measured 3 metres in diameter and was most notable on its south and southwest sides, where it was up to 0.5 metres high. Its origins were not clear and it was thought to be a natural outcrop, a clearance cairn or a burial cairn.

#### 4. Specification

4.1 A specification for the evaluation was written by Trysor (Hall & Sambrook, 2014b), see Appendix A.

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Figure 1: Location of Rhydygwydd and the proposed turbine. The mound lies approximately 30 metres to the northeast of the proposed turbine.

## 5. Historical and Archaeological Overview

5.1 A more detailed discussion of the history of the land around the mound is given in Section 6 of the Rhydygwydd appraisal, (Hall & Sambrook, 2014a and 2014c), but it would appear that it was an area of unenclosed moorland known as Mynydd Bach Ffair at the time of the Llannon map sheet of the Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors Drawing, which was surveyed in 1813.

5.2 By the time of the 1831 1" to 1 mile scale Ordnance Survey map the land had been enclosed and the Llandeilo Fawr parish tithe map of 1841 shows the field system here in detail. The mound lies in the eastern half of a larger field named *Y Bank* on the tithe schedule.

## 6. Methodology

6.1 On Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2014, a trench, 2 metres long, north to south by 0.75 metres wide, was placed across the southern side of the mound from the outer edge towards its centre.

6.2 The turf was removed by hand and the remaining topsoil cleaned away to the top of the layers below.

6.3 This exposed surface was recorded and then the trench reinstated.



Figure 2: Location of Rhydygwydd and the proposed turbine. The mound lies approximately 30 metres to the northeast of the proposed turbine.

# 7. Site Stratigraphy

7.1 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Field Evaluation* (Institute for Archaeologists, 2008, revised 2013).

7.2 Three contexts were recorded. The topsoil, context 001, was a dark brown (10YR 3/3) silt clay loam, with coarse component of small quartz rounded pebbles. It was very shallow, less than 0.10 metres deep. Underneath this lay two contexts, 002, a dark yellowish brown (10YR3/6) soil, and 003, a layer of stones from 0.10 metres to 0.36 metres in size.

7.3 As contexts 002 and 003 were not excavated, the relationship between the two was not established, 002 could lie under the stone layer 003 or over it.

Context Number	Depth	Description	Interpretation
001	0.05m -	10YR3/3, dark brown silt clay loam	Topsoil
	0.10m	with small quartz pebbles $> 0.01$ m	_
002	Donth	10YR3/6, dark yellowish brown,	Soil layer, but
	University	most clearly seen in northwest	relationship between it
	Unknown	corner of trench.	and 003 not defined
003	Depth	Stone layer, unstructured, ranging in	Cairn material, either
	Unknown	size from 0.10 metres to 0.36 metres	clearance or funerary



7.5 Context 003 was planned at a scale of 1:20. the trench was plotted using a handheld GPS, readings to the nearest metre, see Figure 3.

7.4



*Figure 3: Plan of context 003, the stone layer. Scale 1:20. GPS readings at the corner of the trench are to nearest metre.* 

# 8. Photographs

8.1 Colour digital photographs were taken during the evaluations using a 16M pixel camera. The following table describes the content of each photograph included in the project archive. The photographs are included in Appendix B at the end of the report.

Photo Number	Description	Date Taken	Direction
RYG2014_101	The mound, in a pasture field,	04/03/2014	Looking south.
	before evaluation trench excavated		
RYG2014_102	The mound, in a pasture field,	04/03/2014	Looking southeast.
	before evaluation trench excavated		
RYG2014_103	The 2 metre by 0.75 metre wide	04/03/2014	Looking east.
	evaluation trench marked out.		
RYG2014_104	Beginning removal of the turf at the	04/03/2014	Looking west.
	southern end of the trench		
RYG2014_105	Evaluation trench after removal of	04/03/2014	Looking north
	the turf, showing the remains of the		
	topsoil, context 001, overlying		
	partially visible stone layer, context		
	003		
RYG2014_106	Evaluation trench after removal of	04/03/2014	Looking west.
	the turf, showing the remains of the		
	topsoil, context 001, overlying		
	partially visible stone layer, context		
	003		
RYG2014_107	Context 003, after removal of the	04/03/2014	Looking east
	remains of the topsoil, context 001.		
RYG2014_108	Context 003, after removal of the	04/03/2014	Looking south.
	remains of the topsoil, context 001.		
RYG2014_109	First of a sequence of photographs	04/03/2014	Facing south.
	taken vertically showing planning		
	frame strung with 0.2m grid lines		
	overlying the trench. Northern end		
	of trench, facing south.		
	0.00 metres to 0.40 metres, north to		
DV(00014_110	south	04/02/2014	
RYG2014_110	Second of a sequence of	04/03/2014	Facing south.
	photographs taken vertically		
	snowing planning frame strung		
	with 0.2m grid lines overlying the		
	for sing south		
	Tacing south.		
	south		
<b>BVC2014 111</b>	Third of a sequence of photographs	04/03/2014	Facing south
AIG2014_111	taken vertically showing planning	04/03/2014	Facing south.
	frame strung with 0.2m grid lines		
	overlying the trench Northern and		
	of trench facing south		



	0.20 metres to 0.80 metres, north to		
	south		
RYG2014_112	Fourth of a sequence of	04/03/2014	Facing south.
	photographs taken vertically		
	showing planning frame strung		
	with 0.2m grid lines overlying the		
	trench. Northern end of trench,		
	facing south.		
	0.40 metres to 1.00 metres, north to		
	south		
RYG2014_113	Fifth of a sequence of photographs	04/03/2014	Facing south.
	taken vertically showing planning		
	frame strung with 0.2m grid lines		
	overlying the trench. Southern end		
	of trench, facing south.		
	1.00 metres to 1.40 metres, north to		
	south	0.4/02/2011	
RYG2014_114	Sixth of a sequence of photographs	04/03/2014	Facing south.
	taken vertically showing planning		
	frame strung with 0.2m grid lines		
	overlying the trench. Southern end		
	of trench, facing south.		
	1.00 metres to 1.60 metres, north to		
DVC 2014 115	South.	04/02/2014	Essine south
KYG2014_115	Seventh of a sequence of	04/03/2014	Facing south.
	photographs taken vertically		
	snowing planning frame strung		
	trench Southern and of trench		
	facing south		
	1.20 metres to 1.80 metres north to		
	south		
RYG2014 116	Fighth and final photo of a	04/03/2014	Facing south
MI 02014_110	sequence of photographs taken	04/03/2014	i denig south.
	vertically showing planning frame		
	strung with 0.2m grid lines		
	overlying the trench. Southern end		
	of trench, facing south.		
	1.40 metres to 2.00 metres, north to		
	south.		
RYG2014_117	Showing the mound and open	04/03/2014	Looking southeast.
_	trench.		C
<b>R</b> YG2014_118	Showing the mound and open	04/03/2014	Looking northeast.
	trench.		
RYG2014_119	Showing the mound and open	04/03/2014	Looking northwest.
	trench.		
RYG2014_120	Showing the mound and open	04/03/2014	Looking west.
	trench.		
RYG2014_121	Showing the mound and open	04/03/2014	Looking south
	trench.		southeast.



RYG2014_122	Mound after reinstatement.	04/03/2014	Looking east southeast.
RYG2014_123	Mound after reinstatement.	04/03/2014	Looking south southeast.

#### 9. Conclusion

9.1 The evaluation trench was excavated to the point at which it was possible to establish whether the feature was of natural origin or the product of human activity.

9.2 The stone layer revealed after the turf and topsoil was removed was considered to be a stone pile created by human activity. It was not established whether it was a funerary cairn or a clearance feature as for the purposes of the evaluation it established that the feature needed to be avoided by the turbine and its construction works

9.3 The findings of the evaluation were passed to the client who altered the design of the hardstanding area and made arrangements for the protection of the site during construction. Trysor amended the appraisal accordingly, Hall & Sambrook, 2014a.

#### **10. Archive**

10.1 The archive and a copy of the report and photographs will be deposited with the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth. Photographs are in TIFF format, following the standard required by the RCAHMW.

Further copies of the report have also been supplied to Mr McComas, and the Historic Environment Record at Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Llandeilo.

#### **11. Sources**

Hall, J & Sambrook, P, 2014a, Rhydygwydd, Taliaris, Carmarthenshire Historic
Environment Appraisal
Hall, J & Sambrook, P, 2014b, Rhydygwydd, Taliaris, Carmarthenshire Evaluation
Specification
Hall, J & Sambrook, P, 2014c, Rhydygwydd, Taliaris, Carmarthenshire Historic
Environment Appraisal Revised

Institute for Archaeologists, 2013 (revised), Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Field Evaluation, available online from the IfA website, <u>www.archaeologists.net</u>

Jenny Hall & Paul Sambrook, 2014 Trysor www.trysor.net

# **APPENDIX A – Evaluation Specification**

# RHYDYGWYDD, TALIARIS, CARMARTHENSHIRE EVALUATION SPECIFICATION

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Appendix A – Risk Assessment

#### RHYDYGWYDD, TALIARIS, CARMARTHENSHIRE EVALUATION SPECIFICATION

#### **1. Introduction**

1.1 Mr Oliver Buxton of Seren Energy Ltd, 1 High Street, Clydach, Swansea, SA6 5LG has commissioned Trysor heritage consultants to undertake an archaeological evaluation on a small mound identified during an historic environment appraisal at Rhydygwydd.

1.2 It is proposed to develop a planning application for a single turbine, 74m to the upright blade tip, at SN6244628039, in a single field parcel at Rhydygwydd, Taliaris, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire, SA19 7NE. An appraisal to identify any issues relating to the historic environment was undertaken by Trysor in February 2014 (Trysor, 2014), see Appendix A



*Figure 1: Location of proposed turbine in a field to the north of Rhydygwydd, Taliaris, Carmarthenshire* 

#### 2. Issues arising from the Appraisal

2.1 One historic asset (ID number 33) was determined to experience a High direct impact if the development went ahead. This feature was identified during a rapid walkover survey for the appraisal. It is a low earth mound, with occasional stone protruding through the grass cover. It measures 3 metres in diameter. It is most notable on its south and southwest sides, where it is up to 0.5 metres high. Its origins are not clear and could be a natural outcrop, clearance cairn or burial cairn.



Figure 2: Proposed turbine and the sites around it recorded during the appraisal.

#### 3. Evaluation of the mound

3.1 According to the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation:* 

"an archaeological field evaluation will determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the nature of the archaeological resource within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices. These will satisfy the stated aims on the project, and comply with the Code of Conduct, Code of approved practice for the regulation of contractual arrangements in archaeology, and other relevant by-laws of the IfA (Institute for Archaeologists).

#### Definition of field evaluation

The definition of archaeological field evaluation is a limited programme of nonintrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.

#### Purpose of field evaluation

The purpose of field evaluation is to gain information about the archaeological resource within a given area or site (including its presence or absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality), in order to make an assessment of its merit in the appropriate context, leading to one or more of the following:

• *The formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource* 

• *The formulation of a strategy to mitigate a threat to the archaeological resource* 

• *The formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research* 

3.2 The mound will be evaluated so that an appropriate mitigation strategy, if necessary, can be put in place.

#### 4. Legal Status of the development area

4.1 There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments or Listed Buildings within the proposed turbine development area, as recorded in the December 2013 digital datasets from Cadw. There are no SSSI's, SAC's, SPA's within the proposed development area according to the Countryside Council for Wales online resource showing current designations.

#### 5. Nature of the known archaeological resource

5.1The archaeological evaluation was requested by the client after an historic environment appraisal by Trysor which identified a small mound in the field where the turbine would be situated.

5.2 It is a low earth mound, with occasional stone protruding through the grass cover. It measures 3 metres in diameter. It is most notable on its south and southwest sides, where it

is up to 0.5 metres high. Its origins are not clear and could be a natural outcrop, clearance cairn or burial cairn.

#### 6. Health & Safety

6.1 Trysor has undertaken a risk assessment in accordance with their health and safety policy. The risk assessment will be reviewed if conditions on site alter.

#### 7. Field methodology

7.1A small trench, no more than 1m by 4m, will be hand dug by Trysor to a level where it is clear whether the mound is natural or artificial.

7.2 The evaluation will be carried out in accordance with Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*.

7.3 A two-person team will undertake the hand excavation of a single trench which will be excavated to the point at which it becomes possible to determine if the mound is natural or artificial.

7.4 The trench will be backfilled after excavation.

#### 8. Recording – Excavation and Post Excavation

8.1 A written record of all activity will be kept as well as context records on pro-forma sheets for all archaeological contexts, based on the CEU recording manual. The notes and context sheets will form part of the project archive.

8.2 A plan of the location of the trench and representative sections of the trenches will be drawn, at an appropriate scale. If any archaeological features are observed, they will be excavated and recorded, photographed, and planned at an appropriate scale. All plans will be related to boundaries shown on Ordnance Survey Mastermap data. Levels will be taken from a site datum which will be cross referenced to an Ordnance Survey datum.

8.3 Any artefacts will be dealt with in accordance with the guidance provided in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*. Artefacts from the ploughsoil/topsoil will be discarded. Any other artefacts will be retained, cleaned and stored. They will be catalogued by context, including dimensions, weight, number, and description as relevant. Significant artefacts will be drawn at an appropriate scale.

8.4 Deposits of environmental or technological significance will be sampled according to *A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* published in 2002 as one of the Centre for Archaeology Guidelines by English Heritage.

8.5 Should any human remains be encountered, the Coroner and Regional Archaeological Trust will be immediately informed and the remains left *in situ*.

8.6 Colour digital photographs will be taken, as appropriate, using a 16M pixel camera. A written record will be made on site of the photographs taken. Appropriate photographic scales will be used. The photographs will be archived with a full catalogue showing location of photographs and direction taken. Photographs will be archived in TIF format.

# 9. Reporting

9.1 Following the completion of the on-site work, a report on the evaluation will be prepared according to the requirements of Annexe 1 of the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*.

9.2 The report will address the aims and purposes of the evaluation and be fully representative of the information gained including negative evidence. It will contain at a minimum:

- A non-technical summary of the evaluation
- Introductory statement
- Aims and purposes of the evaluation
- Methodology
- Results including documentary research and structural data and associated finds and/or environmental data recovered.
- Interpretation
- Discussion/Conclusion
- Index to Archive and location of archive

9.3 The report will contain at least two plans, one showing the site's location in respect to the wider geography of the area, and a second showing the position of the excavated trenches in relation to the surrounding boundaries.

9.4 The report will also contain supporting plans and sections showing recorded archaeological features at appropriate scales as well as supporting photographs.

9.5 A summary report on the artefactual and environmental assemblage and an assessment of its potential for further study, prepared by suitably qualified individuals, will be included in the main report. Supporting data, tabulated or in appendices, including as a minimum a basic quantification of all artefacts and ecofacts (number and weight), and structural data will also be included.

9.6 Copies of the report will be provided to the client, the Regional Sites and Monuments Record and the National Monuments Record.

#### **10. Dissemination**

10.1 A summary of the work undertaken and its findings will be submitted to the relevant volume of Archaeology in Wales

# 11. Archive

11.1 The project archive will be compiled according to the Institute for Archaeologists' *"Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives"* 

11.2 The paper archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Record, including a copy of the final report. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken. Photographs will be supplied in TIFF format in a file size greater than 11MB, following the standard required by the RCAHMW.

11.3 If there is an artefact archive a copy of the paper archive will be deposited with the artefacts at a suitable location, to be negotiated once the nature of the artefact resource has been established.

#### **12. Resources to be Used**

12.1 Two members of staff will undertake the evaluation. They will be equipped with standard field equipment, including recording equipment, digital cameras, GPS and first aid kits.

12.2 Trysor have access to the computer hardware and software required to deliver the completed final report and archive to a professional standard.

#### **13.** Qualification of personnel

13.1 Jenny Hall (BSc Joint Hons, Geology and Archaeology, MIfA) has over 10 years excavation experience, which included undertaking watching briefs. She also has 10 years experience as a Sites and Monuments Record Manager for a Welsh Archaeological Trust.

13.2 Paul Sambrook (BA Joint Hons, Archaeology and Welsh, PGCE) has extensive experience as a fieldworker in Wales. He was involved with Cadw's pan-Wales Deserted Rural Settlements Project for 7 years. He has also undertaken evaluations, field survey work and watching briefs.

13.3 Martin Locock (BA, MIfA) – Martin worked has undertaken many bone reports and can also do first stage identification of flint artefacts.

#### 14. Insurance & Professional indemnity

Trysor has Public Liability Insurance and Professional Indemnity Insurance.

#### 15. Project identification

The project has been designated Trysor Project No. 2014/370

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# **APPENDIX B**



Plate 1: RYG2014\_101, The mound, in a pasture field, before evaluation trench excavated, looking south



Plate 2: RYG2014\_102, the mound, in a pasture field, before evaluation trench excavated, looking southeast.

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Plate 4: RYG2014\_104, beginning removal of the turf at the southern end of the trench, looking west.





*Plate 5: RYG2014\_105, after removal of the turf, showing the remains of the topsoil, context 001, overlying partially visible stone layer, context 003, looking west.* 



*Plate* 6:*RYG2014\_106, after removal of the turf, showing the remains of the topsoil, context* 001, overlying partially visible stone layer, context 003, looking west.



Plate 7: RYG2014\_107, After removal of the remains of the topsoil, context 00, looking east



Plate 8: RYG2014\_108: After removal of the remains of the topsoil, context 00, looking south.

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Plate 9: RYG2014\_109, first of gridded photos, northern end of trench, facing south. 0.00 to 0.40 metres, north to south.



*Plate 10: RYG2014\_110: second of gridded photos, northern end of trench, facing south. 0.00 to 0.80 metres, north to south.* 





Plate 11: RYG2014\_111, third of gridded photos, northern end of trench, facing south. 0.20 to 0.80 metres, north to south.



*Plate 12: RYG2014\_112: fourth of gridded photos, northern end of trench, facing south.* 0.40 to 1.00 metres, north to south.

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Plate 13: RYG2014\_113, fifth of gridded photos, northern end of trench, facing south. 1.00 to 1.40 metres, north to south.



*Plate 14: RYG2014\_114: sixth of gridded photos, northern end of trench, facing south. 1.00 to 1.60 metres, north to south.* 



*Plate 15: RYG2014\_115, seventh of gridded photos, northern end of trench, facing south. 1.00 to 1.60 metres, north to south.* 



Plate 16: RYG2014\_116: eighth and final gridded photo, northern end of trench, facing south. 1.00 to 1.60 metres, north to south.



Plate 17: RYG2014\_117, showing the mound and open trench, looking southeast.



*Plate 18: RYG2014\_118: showing the mound and open trench, looking northeast.* 





Plate 120: RYG2014\_120: showing the mound and open trench, looking west.



*Plate 21: RYG2014\_121, showing the mound and open trench, looking south southeast.* 



Plate 22: RYG2014\_122: Mound after reinstatement, looking east southeast.



Plate 23: RYG2014\_123, mound after reinstatement, looking south southeast.