

CAMBRIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECTS LTD.



Caergwin, Caerwedros Llandysul

Archaeological Field Evaluation



By
Richard Jones MA



Report No 432

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

**Caergwin, Caerwedros,
Llandysul.**

BY *Richard Scott Jones*

**Prepared for:
Alan Evans**

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**Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd
Old Chapel
Llanidloes
Montgomeryshire
SY18 6JR**

**Telephone/Fax: 01686 413857
e-mail: kevin@cambarchaco.uk
Internet address: www.cambrian-archaeology.co.uk**

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THE INSTITUTE OF FIELD ARCHAEOLOGISTS (IFA)

Standard and Guidance for an archaeological field evaluation

The Standard

An archaeological field evaluation will determine, as far as it is reasonably possible, the nature of the archaeological resource within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices. These will satisfy the stated aims of the projects, 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 field evaluation

The definition of an archaeological field evaluation is a limited programme of non-intrusive 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 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 initiate a threat to the archaeological resource.
- ◆ the formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research.

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

Non Technical Summary

The following report is the result of work undertaken by Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd. on behalf of Mr P.J. Evans as part of a condition attached to a planning application submitted by Mr Evans to Ceredigion County Council Planning Department, for the construction of a new dwelling close to the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Castell Caerwedros, a Norman Motte. The main component of the report was a field investigation, which was designed to determine whether any archaeological deposits were present on the site associated with the Norman motte and to evaluate and record their character and significance.

The investigation did not reveal any significant archaeological deposits associated with the Norman Motte. The only features recorded was an area of burning sitting directly on top of the natural clays. No dateable material earlier than the 18th century was recovered.

1 Introduction

The following text details the findings and work undertaken by Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd. (CAP Ltd) during a Field Evaluation on the footprint of a proposed new dwelling at Caergwin, Caerwedros, Llandysul, near Newquay (NGR: SN 3757 5577).

CAP Ltd. submitted a tender and a project specification in accordance with the archaeological condition. This application was accepted and the work was carried out accordingly by CAP Ltd. on April 25th 2006.

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

Planning Background

- 1.1 Mr P.J. Evans, owner of Caergwin, Caerwedros, Llandysul, submitted a planning application (*Application Number: A050377*) to Ceredigion County Council, for the erection of a new bungalow close to the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Castell Caerwedros (NGR: SN 3757 5577). Planning permission was granted with a condition for an Archaeological Field Evaluation.

Site Description

- 1.2 The site (NGR: SN 3757 5577) is located only approx. 30m to west of the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Castell Caerwedros, the remains of a Norman motte. The development area itself is presently a garden area that was formerly occupied by greenhouses. The garden area measures approx. 30m east-west x 80m north-south the north. Immediately to the east is a track that runs alongside the remains of the Norman motte. The land slopes gradually down to the south away from the road.

Soil and Geology

- 1.3 According to the British Geological Survey Map of Wales the underlying geology is a Silurian Sedimentary rock of the Llandovery series overlain by glacio-fluvial clay deposits. The soil in the area is predominantly a clay loam.

Archaeological Background

- 1.4 All that remains of the Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) of Castell Caerwedros is the motte, the earthen mound, a fosse and a counterscarp bank of considerable height. It is thought that originally the castle had an embanked and palisaded bailey or an enclosure to the north, which has now long since disappeared. The first structure, a wooden palisade was raised by a follower of Gilbert fitz Richard de La Clare in 1110, as a military and administrative centre of a lordship superseding the commote of Caerwedros, possibly sited at the home or *llys* of the dispossessed Welsh Lord. The castle was spared when Gruffudd ap Rhys devastated Ceredigion in 1116. In 1136 Owain Gwynedd and his brother Cadwaladr attacked the castle and burnt it. It may have been repaired, but its existence disappears from the annals of history from this time onwards.

2 Aims and Objectives

- 2.1 In accordance with IFA's *Standards and guidance*, the aim of the archaeological work will be to identify archaeological features in the area of the proposed works.
- 2.2 The objectives will be, to identify the date, nature of any features being investigated. To assess the survival, quality, condition and relative significance of any archaeological features, deposits and structures within the study area and as a result of these processes, produce a record of the features.
- 2.3 The evaluation will include a comprehensive assessment of regional context within which the archaeological evidence rests and will aim to highlight any relevant research issues within a national and regional framework

3 Methodology

- 3.1 A mechanical excavator with a 1m wide ditching bucket was used for the removal of topsoil and modern overburden across the entire 13m x 2m wide trench.
- 3.2 The archaeological contractor then '*field walked*' the area recovering any dateable material which was evident.
- 3.3 Thereafter the area was cleaned to investigate whether any cuts or other features could be located.
- 3.4 Where features were present limited excavation was undertaken to establish the date, depth, preservation, extent, function and relationship to other features.
- 3.5 Recording of the trenches was undertaken in three formats:
- i) *Photographic record* - Photographs were appropriated in digital format (TIFF files to a minimum of 5 mega-pixel resolution).
 - 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.

- 3.6 An environmental sampling and sampling and processing strategy was in place should the archaeological deposits warrant it. However, in this instance it was not felt that the deposits encountered required sampling.
- 3.7 All works were undertaken in accordance with both the IFA's *Standards and guidance: for an archaeological field evaluation* and current Health and Safety legislation.

4 Results of the Field Evaluation

- 4.1 The evaluation trench measured approx. 13m x 2m and was aligned north-east to south-west across the area of the proposed footprint of the new dwelling (*see fig 3*).
- 4.2 In the following, numbers contained within brackets (), refer to context numbers allocated during the watching brief. A detailed list of all contexts is given in Appendix I of this report. All associated finds are detailed in Appendix II.

Evaluation trench

- 4.3 The topsoil (1) was removed across the entire length of the trench. This 'A' horizon was a mid brown soil of fair quality, consisting of a silty clayey loam with very few stone inclusions and a well developed crumb structure. Depth 0.20m.
- 4.4 The subsoil (2) may be described as a very friable mid/light brown clay silt. The clay and stone content of this 'B' horizon increased with depth. At depth occasional clay patches were evident which showed evidence of *gleying*, indicating some seasonal water-logging of the soil. The boundary between the 'A' and 'B' horizons was indistinct, indicating a high degree of intermixing between the two (the area had, until recently, been dug with a rotary digger for vegetable planting – *pers comm.*). Depth of subsoil 0.3m. During the removal of this sub-soil, the cuts for two small modern drainage pipes running north-south were exposed, one at each end of the trench (3, 4, 5 and 6)
- 4.5 Following removal of these two upper deposits, a natural beige/pale yellow clay layer became exposed across the entire length of the trench (7). This layer was cleaned back by hand and walked and investigated for any potential archaeological features. In the central area of the trench a thin oval patch of pale orange clay stained deposit with charcoal inclusions was apparent running north-south, approx. 1.5m in width (8). This thin lens deposit was overlying a thin deposit of irregular stones (9). The edges of this feature were cleaned back and defined as best as was possible against the natural underlying clay layer(7). The depth of this deposit was approx. only 0.10m and appeared to continue beneath the south facing section of the trench. In order to ascertain the character, extent, date and nature of this feature the evaluation trench was extended approx. 2m to the north. Following this, the feature became further exposed, but appeared to stop, defining it as an oval feature, indicative of an area of former burning. At the edges of the feature, particularly at the west end was an ash lens (10), again indicative of an area of burning. The feature did not continue across into the north facing section of the trench. Following further investigation of this feature it became apparent that this feature appeared to be the remains of a former bonfire area lying directly on top the natural clay (7). No dateable material was collected from this feature.
- 4.6 Across the entire length of the trench, the only dateable material recovered was a small fragment of glazed 18th century slip-ware. This was retrieved from the lower regions of the sub-soil (2).

5 Conclusion

- 5.1 The evaluation at Caergwin, Caerwedros, recorded no significant archaeological features within the entire length of the evaluation trench, except for an oval patch of burning, which appeared to be a former bonfire area. The depth of the top and sub soils before hitting the natural clays, within the trench was very low, not exceeding 0.50m in depth. No dateable material before the 18th century was retrieved from the trench and there was no evidence pertaining to any former bailey associated with the Norman motte of Castell Caerwedros.

6 Acknowledgements

Thanks to; Kevin Blockley for his help and advice during the compilation of this report. Thanks also to Charles Hill of Cambria Archaeology for monitoring the evaluation. Also thanks to Mr P Evans and Mr A Evans for allowing access for the evaluation. assessment.

7 Bibliography

- Project Specification Project No: 776
- Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG16)
- Institute of Field Archaeology Standards and Guidance for a Field Evaluation



APPENDIX I:

Figures & Illustrations

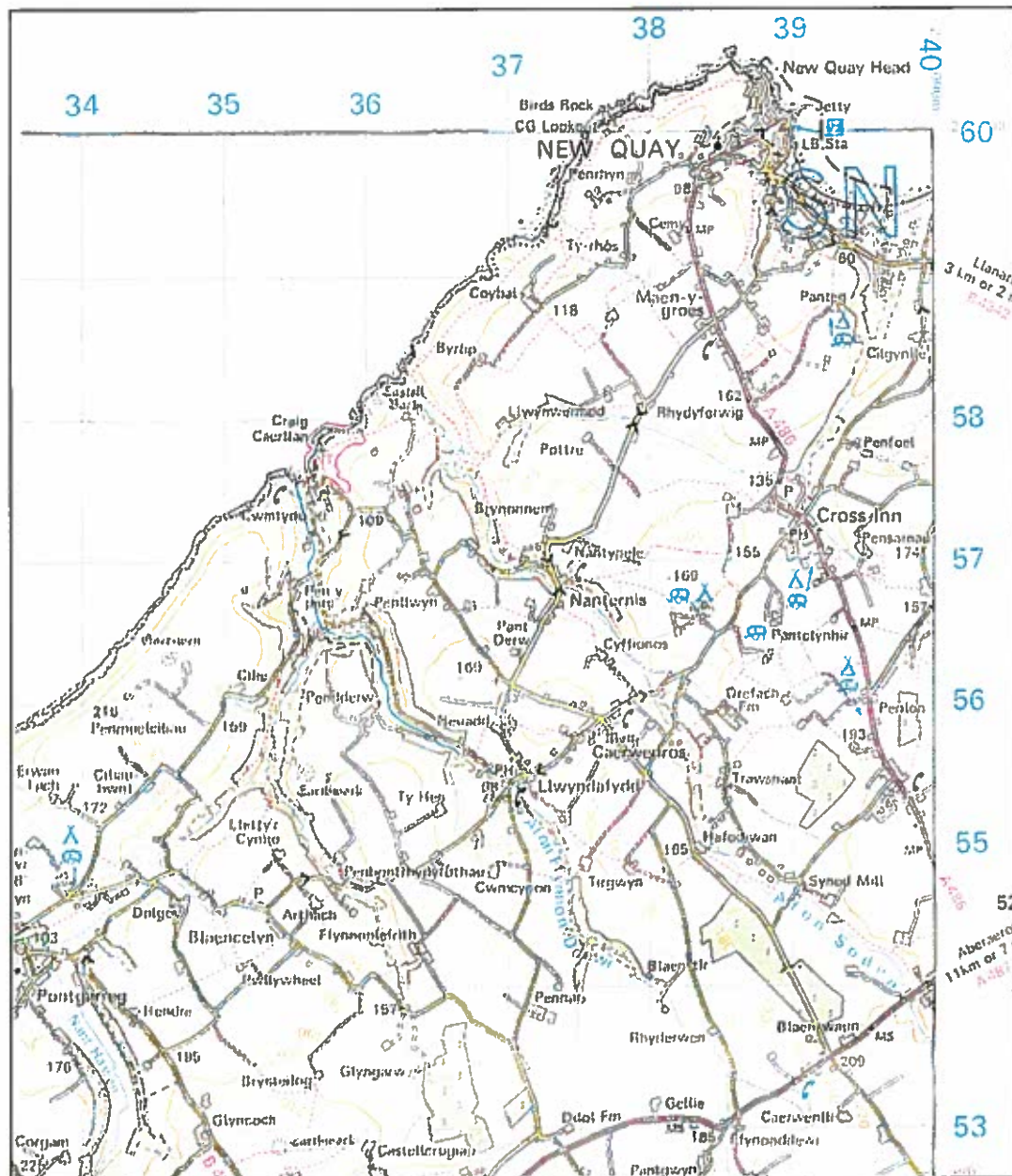


Figure 1. Location map showing position of Caergwin, Caerwedros.

Figure 2. Location plan showing site of Caergwin, Caerwedros in relation to evaluation trench and Castell Caerwedros motte.

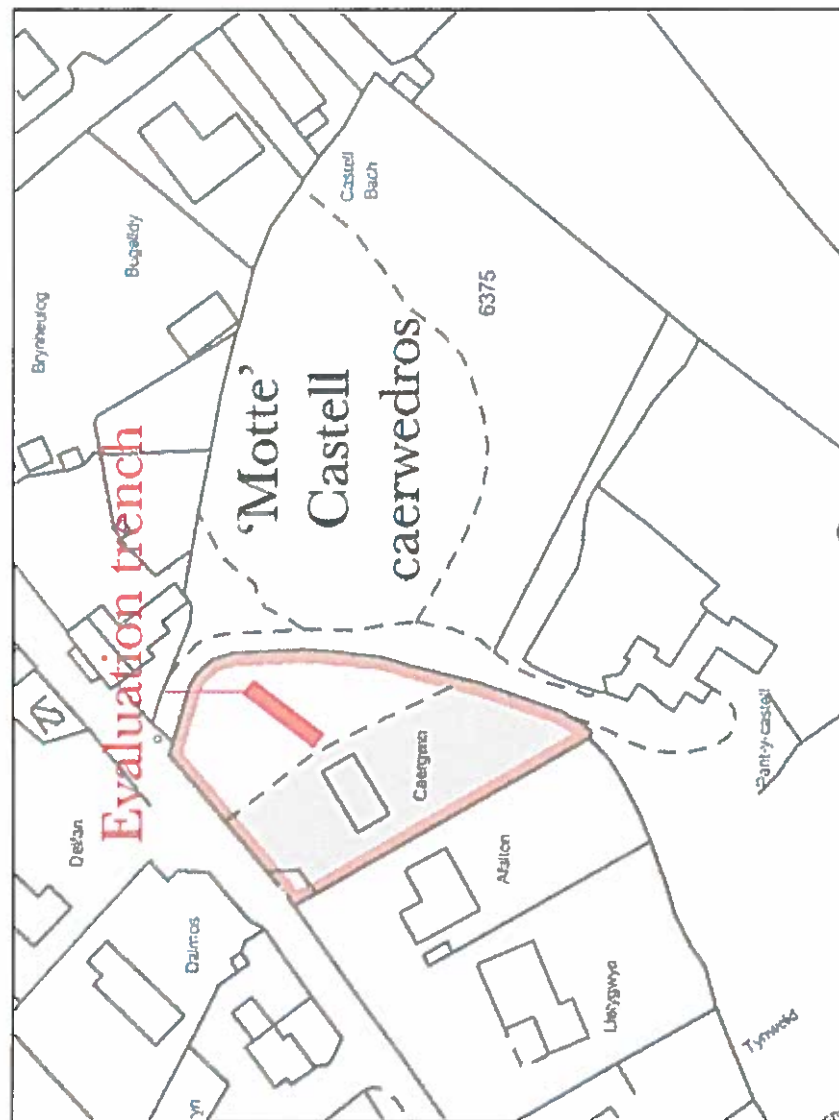


Figure 3. Site plan showing position of evaluation trench in relation to Castell Caerweddros motte

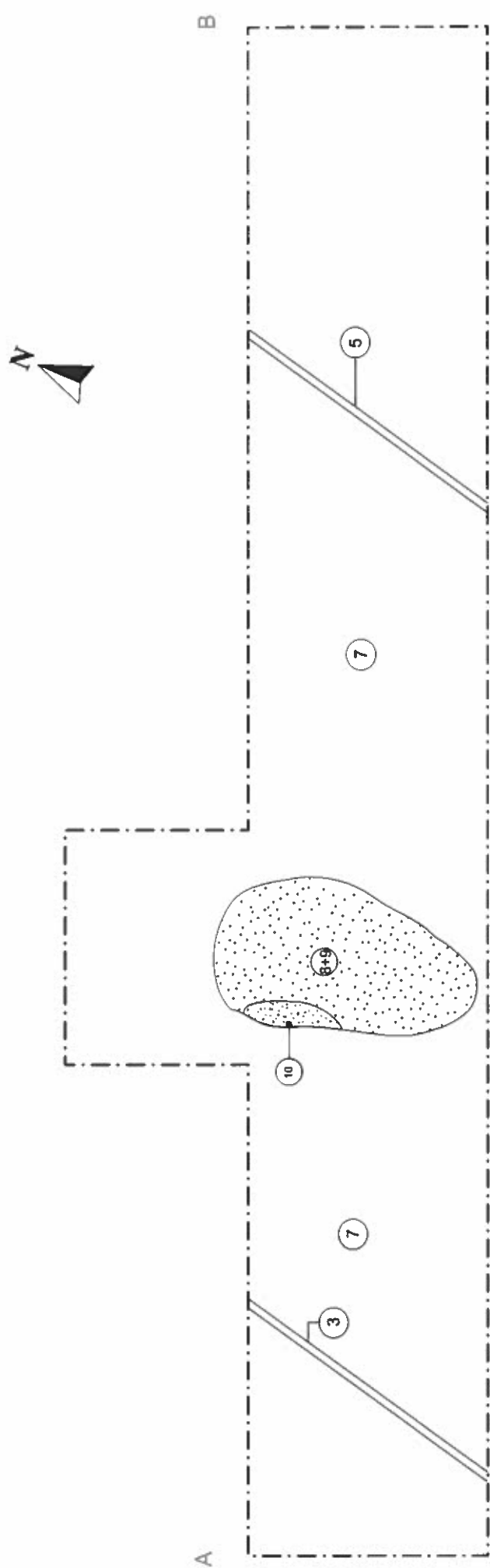


Figure 4. Ground plan of evaluation trench

Drawn at 1:20 scale

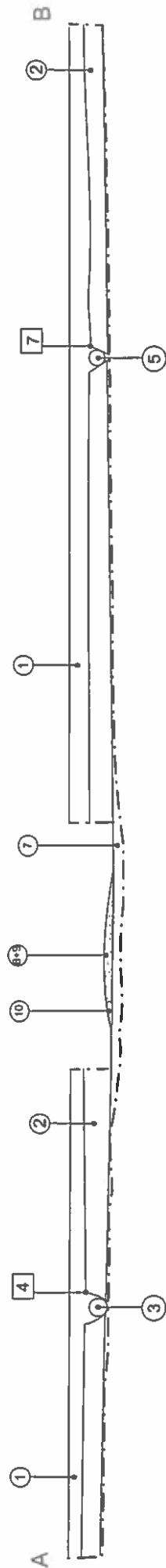


Figure 5. Section drawing A-B. South facing.



APPENDIX II: **Photos**



Plate 1. Area of evaluation prior to ground work. Looking east toward motte of castell caerwedros.



Plate 3. Evaluation trench. Looking east.



Plate 4. Evaluation trench. Looking west.



Plate 4. Context 8 and 9 in central area of trench. Looking north.



APPENDIX III:

Context & Finds Register

SUMMARY OF CONTEXTS

CAERGWIN, CAERWEDROS, LLANDYSUL

CONTEXTS

- 1 Top soil.
- 2 Sub soil.
- 3 Drainage pipe.
- 4 Cut for drainage pipe.
- 5 Drainage pipe.
- 6 Cut for drainage pipe .
- 7 Natural beige clay.
- 8 Orange stained stone feature.
- 9 stone deposit.
- 10 ash lens.

SUMMARY OF FINDS

CAEGWIN, CAERWEDROS, LLANDYSUL

CONTEXT 2

Pottery

FABRIC TYPE	NUMBER OF SHERDS	WEIGHT (g)	DATE (CENTURY)
SW	1	3	mid 18



APPENDIX IV: **Archive Cover Sheet**

ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

CAERGWIN, CAERWEDROS, LLANDYSUL

ARCHIVE DESTINATION – CAP LTD.

Site Name:	Caergwin, Caerwedros
Site Code:	CC/06/Eval
PRN:	N/A
NPRN :	N/A
SAM:	N/A
Other Ref No:	CAP Report No. 432
NGR:	SN 3757 5577
Site Type:	Medieval motte
Project Type:	Field Evaluation
Project Officer:	Richard Scott Jones
Project Dates:	April 2006
Categories Present:	N/A
Location of Original Archive:	CAP Ltd.
Location of duplicate Archives:	N/A
Number of Finds Boxes:	Nil
Location of Finds:	N/A
Museum Reference:	Not assigned
Copyright:	CAP Ltd
Restrictions to access:	None

