

HERITAGE
RECORDING SERVICES **WALES**



Ty Gwyn, Llangybi, Ceredigion.

Archaeological Field Evaluation



By
Richard Scott Jones (MA, BA Hons)



ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Ty Gwyn, Llangybi, Ceredigion.

By

Richard Scott Jones (BA Hons, MA)

Prepared for:

**Cambria Archaeology- Heritage Management
The Shire Hall,
8 Carmarthen Street,
Llandeilo,
Carmarthenshire
SA19 6AF**

On behalf of:

**Alan Thomas Chartered Surveyors,
3 Emlyn Square,
Newcastle Emlyn,
Carmarthenshire,
SA38 9BG**

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**HERITAGE
RECORDING SERVICES WALES**

Pen-y-Fan, 11 Forest Lane, Llangybi, Ceredigion, SA48 8LZ

Tel: 01570 493312 Fax: 08712 428171 E-mail: hrrswales@tiscali.co.uk

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Non Technical Summary

The following report is the result of archaeological work undertaken by Heritage Recording Services Wales for Alan Thomas Chartered Surveyors, on behalf of Mr Robert Lewis, owner of Ty Gwyn, Llangybi, Ceredigion. The work was undertaken prior to the determination of outline planning permission being granted for the proposed construction of 5 detached dwellings and 1 pair of semi-detached affordable homes and an access road in an area of land immediately west of the property known as Ty Gwyn, Llangybi.

Both the documentary search and the evaluation were designed to assess the presence or absence of archaeological material as implied by possible cropmark features present on aerial photos within the area of the proposed development.

In total three strategically placed evaluation trenches were dug across the area of the potential cropmarks as evident from aerial photographic evidence. Within each of these trenches no archaeological features or finds became exposed or recovered.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The following report is the result of archaeological work undertaken by Heritage Recording Services Wales for Alan Thomas Chartered Surveyors, on behalf of Mr Robert Lewis, owner of Ty Gwyn, Llangybi, Ceredigion. The work was undertaken prior to the determination of outline planning permission being granted for the proposed construction of 5 detached dwellings and 1 pair of semi-detached affordable homes and an access road in an area of land immediately west of the property known as Ty Gwyn, Llangybi.
- 1.2 After being approached by Mr Lewis of Ty Gwyn, Llangybi to undertake the archaeological evaluation, HRSW submitted a project specification to Cambria Archaeology, the regional Archaeological Trust in Llandeilo, detailing the schedule of works in May 2007. This specification was approved and the evaluation work was undertaken on 2nd June 2007.
- 1.3 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

- 1.4 Prior to outline planning permission being granted for the proposed development Cambria Archaeology – Heritage Management have recommended that the results of an intrusive archaeological field evaluation of the proposed development area will be required prior to the determination of the planning application, in order that the Members of the Authority are fully informed about the affect of the development on the archaeological resource at the time of their determination.

Site Description (see Figs 1, 2, & 3)

- 1.5 The location of the proposed development lies in an area of land immediately northeast of the property known as Ty Gwyn, Llangybi (NGR: SN 6110 5340). The site lies at approx. 135m O.D in an area of flat field along the west side of the A485 toward the northern end of the village of Llangybi. Approximately 150m to the east on the east side of the main road is the River Dulas.
- 1.6 An initial search of the Sites and Monuments Records database show that the proposed development lies within an area of crop marking. Aerial mapping has revealed that the proposed development lies within immediate proximity to the site of the uncharacterised and undated crop mark of Glan-Dulas-Isaf (PRN 8121), a working farm to the northeast.. Crop marks such as these, often only visible under the correct climatic and environmental conditions, can indicate the presence of possible below ground features such

as enclosures, buildings and walls. In addition, this site would also appear to form the central component of a series of at least three crop marks lying to the east (PRN 6329, SN6134/5540) and west (PRN 6328, SN6067/5337).

Geology

- 1.6 The geology of the area is a sedimentary rock of an Undivided Llandovery series. Local geology indicates an area of yellow/orange sandy gravels, clays and mud-stone.

Brief Historical & Archaeological Background

- 1.7 The village of Llangybi is described by Samuel Lewis in his Topographical Dictionary of Wales dated 1833 thus:

"LLANGYBY (LLAN-GYBI) , a parish in the upper division of the hundred of MOYTHEN, county of CARDIGAN, SOUTH WALES, 4 1/4 miles (N. N. E.) from Lampeter, on the road to Tregaron, containing 275 inhabitants. The lands are in general enclosed and in a good state of cultivation, and the soil is tolerably fertile. This place formerly constituted a prebend in the collegiate church of Llandewy-Brevi, rated in the king's books at £1.6.8. The living is a perpetual curacy, consolidated with that of Llanvair Clydogau, in the archdeaconry of Cardigan, and diocese of St. David's, endowed with £800 royal bounty, and in the alternate patronage of the Earl of Lisburne and Lord Carrington. The church, dedicated to St. Cybi, is a small edifice, consisting only of a nave and chancel. There are places of worship for Independents and Presbyterians : the latter is supposed to be the most ancient congregation of dissenters in the principality, having first assembled here about the year 1663. On a hill above the river Teivy is a large intrenchment, called Castell Goedtre but nothing is known either of its origin or history : it gives name to the farm on which it is situated. The average annual expenditure for the support of the poor is £39.14." (Samuel Lewis 1833.)

- 1.9 The village of Llangybi is best known for its association with Saint Gybi or Cybi, a 6th century Welsh saint, who is said to have lived in a nearby house known as Llety Gybi. In the village is a holy well known as 'Gybi's Well' or 'Ffynon Wen'. The well is said to have been formerly roofed and had seats around it to accommodate bathers (JONES 1992).

2 Aims and Objectives

- 2.1 In accordance with IFA's *Standards and guidance*, the aims of an archaeological field evaluation are 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.
- 2.2 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.

3 Methodology

- 3.1 With regards the evaluation, ground work was undertaken by the contractor using a mechanical digger with a 1.75 meter wide grading bucket and hand shovel, when deemed necessary, under the guidance of the qualified supervising archaeologist. Initially the overlying top soil was removed in 4 meter long increments and if any archaeology became exposed it was excavated to ascertain its character, recorded and left in situ, whilst digging of the trench continued along its length. Each of the trenches measured approx. 20 metres in length.
- 3.2 After the ground work had been completed limited cleaning of the trench was undertaken in order to ascertain the existence or non existence of any archaeological features.
- 3.3 Where features were present limited excavation was undertaken to establish the date, depth, preservation, extent, function and relationship to other features.
- 3.4 Recording of the trench was undertaken in three formats:
- i) *Photographic record* - Photographs were taken in digital format using a 5 mega-pixel camera recording in high resolution JPEG files. Where deemed necessary standard 35 mm film format Transparency and Black and White were also appropriated.
 - ii) *Drawn record* - Site drawings, plans and sections, were produced at scales of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 on drafting film, where deemed necessary. 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.
- 3.5 An environmental 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.
- 3.6 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 Cartographic Sources (see Figs 4 –6)

- 4.1 As part of the assessment documentary research was undertaken of all readily available early maps and aerial photographs and a study of all readily available maps was undertaken. This included the Tithe Map of 1840 and the early Ordnance Survey maps of 1887 – 1903. None of the early maps showed any features within the area of the development

Tithe Map for the Parish of Llangybi 1839/40 (see fig 4)

- 4.2 Study of the Tithe Map of 1840 for the parish of Llangybi shows that there were no buildings or structures present within the area of the field proposed for development immediately north of Ty Gwyn.

OS First Edition Map of 1887 (see fig 5)

- 4.3 The Ordnance Survey First Edition map of 1887 shows no features within the area of the proposed development.

OS Second Edition Map of 1903 (see fig 6)

- 4.4 The Ordnance Survey First Edition map of 1887 shows no features within the area of the proposed development.

Aerial photo of 1946 (RAF)

- 4.5 The aerial photo of 1946 for the area of the proposed development appears to show very faint cropmark features within the field, but none have well defined edges and may in fact be just marks from farming activity at the time.

Aerial Photo of 1975

- 4.6 No features or cropmarks are evident within the area of the proposed development on this aerial photo.

Aerial Photo of 2000

- 4.7 No features or cropmarks are evident within the area of the proposed development on this aerial photo.

Aerial Photo of 2006

- 4.8 No features or cropmarks are evident within the area of the proposed development on this aerial photo.

5 Results of the Field Evaluation *(see Figs 3, 7 and 8)*

- 5.1 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 III of this report. Three evaluation trenches were put in within the area of the development. Each trench was strategically placed across an area where there was a *potential* cropmark as shown on the RAF aerial photo of 1946.

Trench 1

- 5.2 Trench 1 measured approx. 20 metres in length x 1.75 metres in width and averaged a depth of approx. 0.60m and ran east-west. This trench was placed in the central area of the proposed development where a possible curvilinear cropmark was visible on the aerial photo of 1946. Once the top soil (100) was removed, which consisted of a mid-brown agricultural soil inter-mixed with stones of varying size, none no bigger than approx. 0.10m. This deposit averaged a depth of approx. 0.20m. Below this deposit was a mid-brown/orange sub soil (101) which was fairly sandy with occasional areas of clays and shale gravels. This averaged a depth of approx. 0.30m. No archaeological material was recovered or observed from this deposit and as such it appeared to be an *untouched* natural deposit. However, just to confirm this, this deposit was further removed to reveal a more convincing natural layer (102), which consisted of a mixture of sandy shale gravels and yellow clays with the occasional large rounded former river stones or glacial deposits averaging 0.20m – 0.40m in size. Once the trench had been dug both sections were inspected for possible evidence of former earthen banks or ditch features. None were present. Following the submitted project specification, a further transect trench was cut across the southern central section of the trench already dug, in order to confirm the non-existence of any features in this area. This trench measured approx. 8 metres in length x 1.75 metres wide. It averaged a depth of approx. 0.60m. No features were present in this transect trench and the exposed deposits mirrored those already exposed in the east-west trench.

Trench 2

- 5.3 Trench 2 measured approx. 20 metres in length x 1.75 metres in width and averaged a depth of approx. 0.60m and ran east-west. This trench was placed at the far northern end of the proposed development where a possible linear cropmark was visible on the aerial photo of 1946. Once the top soil (200) was

removed, which consisted of a mid-brown agricultural soil inter-mixed with stones of varying size, none no bigger than approx. 0.10m. This deposit averaged a depth of approx. 0.20m. Below this deposit was a mid-brown/orange sub soil (201) which was fairly sandy with occasional areas of clays and shale gravels. This averaged a depth of approx. 0.30m. No archaeological material was recovered or observed from this deposit and as such it appeared to be an *untouched* natural deposit. However, just to confirm this, as with Trench 1, this deposit was further removed to reveal a more convincing natural layer (202), which consisted of a mixture of sandy shale gravels and yellow clays with the occasional large rounded former river stones or glacial deposits averaging 0.20m – 0.40m in size. Once the trench had been dug both sections were inspected for possible evidence of former earthen banks or ditch features. None were present. No archaeological features or finds were exposed in this trench and the deposits mirrored those already exposed in Trench 1.

Trench 3

- 5.4 Trench 3 measured approx. 20 metres in length x 1.75 metres in width and averaged a depth of approx. 0.60m and ran east-west. This trench was placed in the far southern end of the proposed development where a possible linear crop-mark was visible on the aerial photo of 1946. Once the top soil (300) was removed, which consisted of a mid-brown agricultural soil inter-mixed with stones of varying size, none no bigger than approx. 0.10m. This deposit averaged a depth of approx. 0.20m. Below this deposit was a mid-brown/orange sub soil (301) which was fairly sandy with occasional areas of clays and shale gravels. This averaged a depth of approx. 0.30m. No archaeological material was recovered or observed from this deposit and as such it appeared to be an *untouched* natural deposit. However, just to confirm this, as with Trenches 1 and 2, this deposit was further removed to reveal a more convincing *natural* layer (302), which consisted of a mixture of sandy shale gravels and yellow clays with the occasional large rounded former river stones or glacial deposits averaging 0.20m – 0.40m in size. Once the trench had been dug both exposed north and south facing sections were inspected for possible evidence of former earthen banks or ditch features. None were present. No archaeological features or finds were exposed in this trench and the deposits mirrored those already exposed in Trenches 1 and 2

Summary of results

- 5.5 The evaluation trenches within the area of the proposed development in the field immediately north of Ty Gwyn, Llangybi, managed to expose no archaeological features or finds at all. No dateable material was recovered from any of the three trenches. The deposits removed from each of the trenches, even the upper sub soil deposit was completely *sterile* of any archaeological material, implying that the field has solely been used for agricultural purposes for a considerable time.

6 Conclusion

- 6.1 The three evaluation trenches within the area of the proposed development in the field immediately north of Ty Gwyn, Llangybi, managed to expose no archaeological features or finds at all. No dateable material was recovered from any of the three trenches. The deposits removed from each of the trenches, even the upper sub soil deposit was completely *sterile* of any archaeological material, implying that the field has solely been used for agricultural purposes for a considerable time. This also implies that the *possible* faint crop-marks visible on the aerial photo of 1946 are more likely marks left from agricultural activity in the field at the time the photo was appropriated.
- 6.2 The documentary research of the early maps and aerial photos recorded no features or structures within the field proposed for development.

7 Acknowledgements

Thanks to; Mr R, Lewis , the owner of Ty Gwyn, Llangybi, for his patience during the ground work and recording work.

8 Bibliography

JONES, F. 1992. *The Holy Wells of Wales*. Cardiff University Press.

LEWIS, S. 1833. *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales 1833*.

Cartographic Sources

- Tithe Map of 1840 for Parish of Llangybi (NLW)
- Ordnance Survey First Edition Six inch series 1887 Sheet No XXXIV NW (NLW)
- Ordnance Survey Second Edition Six inch series 1903 Sheet No XXXIV NW (NLW)

Aerial Photos consulted

Lib No	Sortie	Date	Frame No's
1165	540/498	17/05/1951	4092-4094
372	106G/UK/1470	04/05/1946	4298-4300
8508	ADAS	1975	87/86
8901	75/161	2000	682/3/4
	75/209	2000	77
	93/526	2000	14/13
	94/345	2000	19
	94/336	2000	90/115
	96/321	2006	43



APPENDIX I: Figs & Illustrations

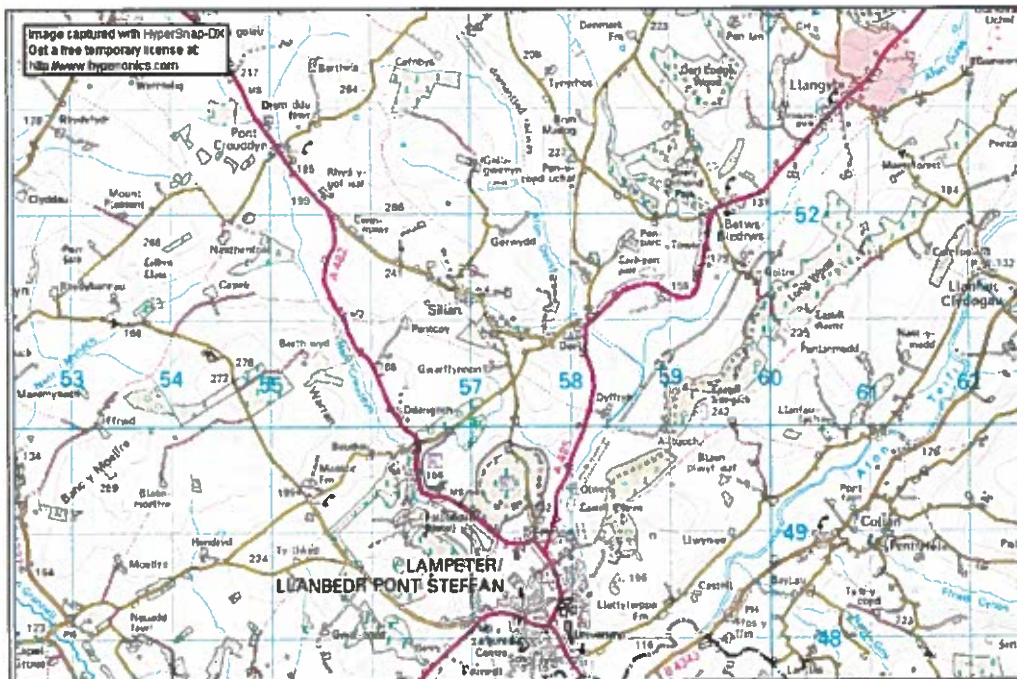


Figure 1. Location map showing site of Ty Gwyn, Llangybi, Ceredigion.
(OS 1:25000 map)

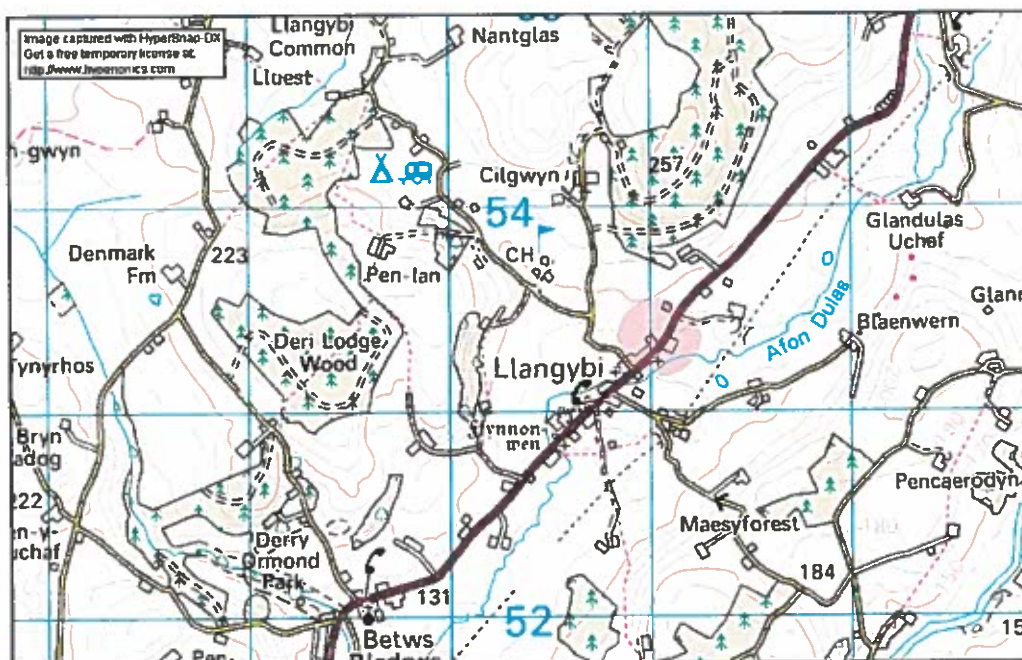


Figure 2. Enlarged view of location map showing site of Ty Gwyn, Llangybi, Ceredigion..
(OS 1:25000 map)

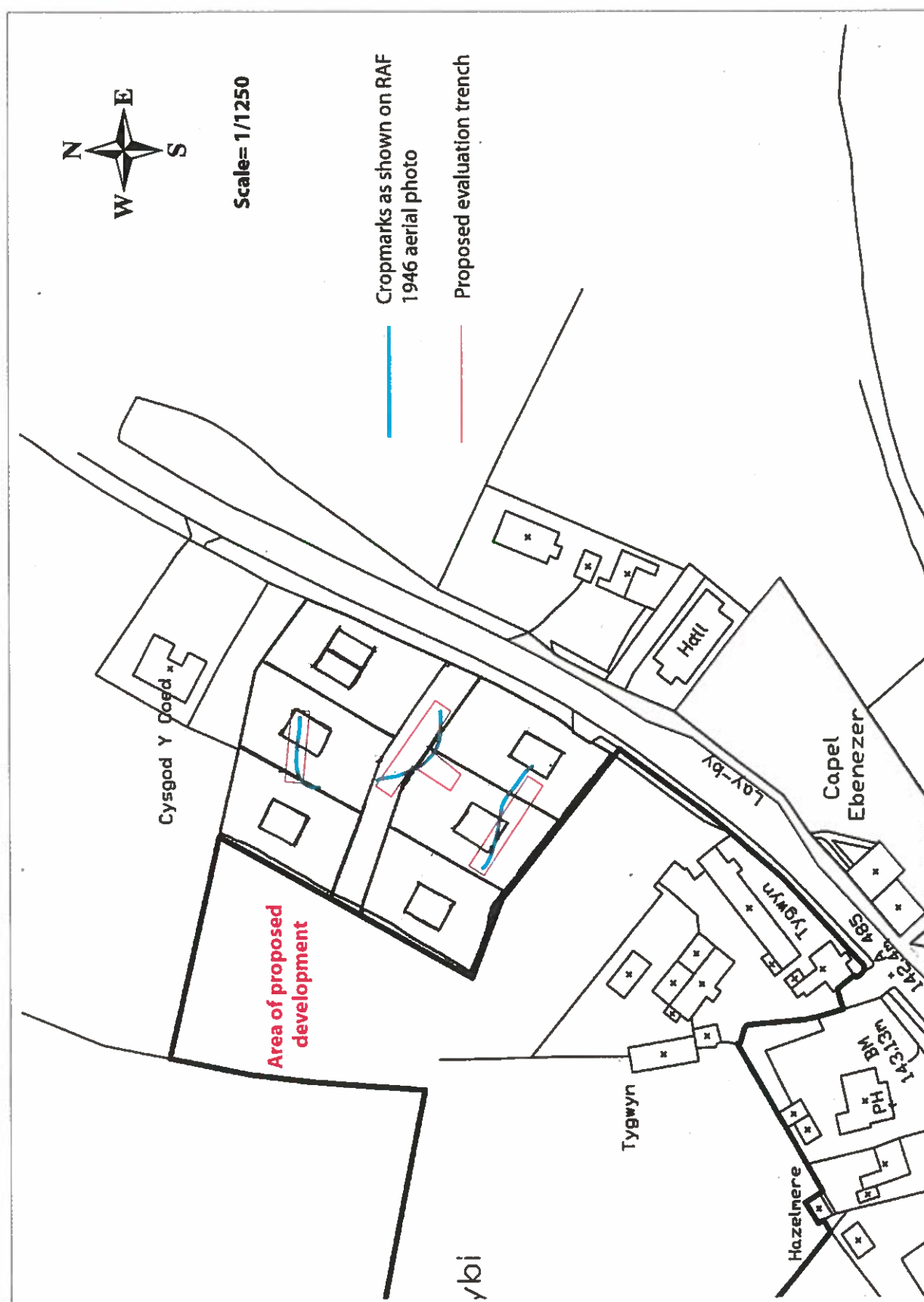


Figure 3. Preliminary site layout with positions of evaluation trenches positioned over possible cropmarks as interpreted from RAF aerial photo of 1951.

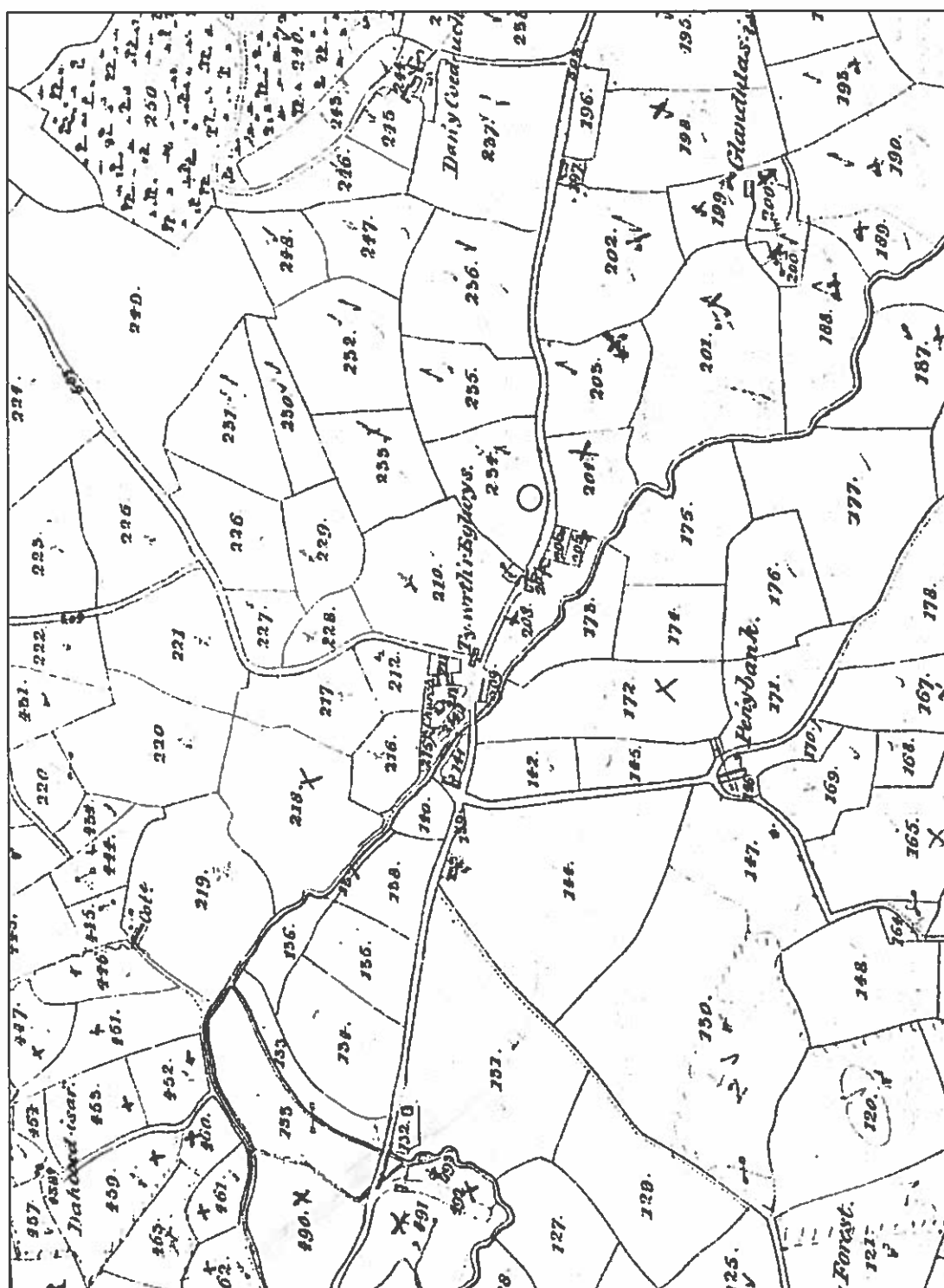


Figure 4. Tithe Map of village of Llanybi 1839/40 (site location highlighted).

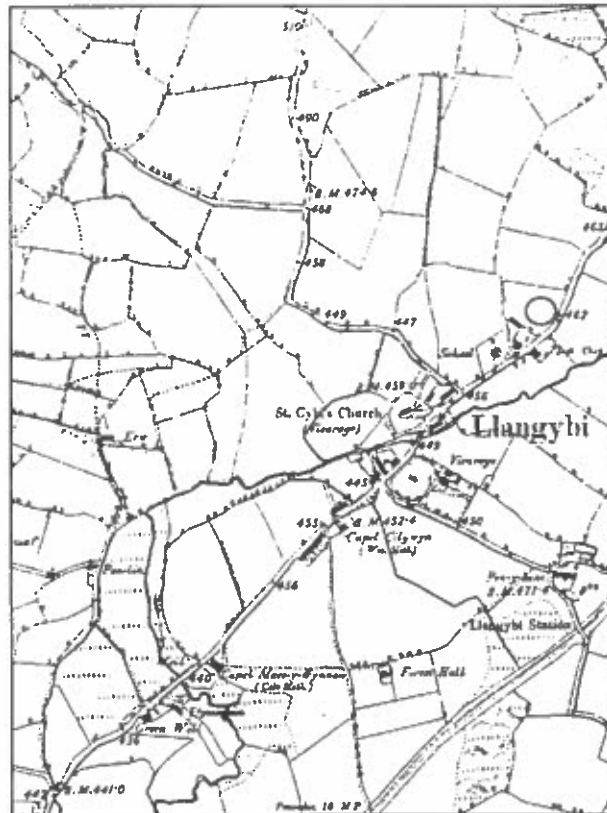


Figure 5. OS First Edition Map of 1887 (site location highlighted).

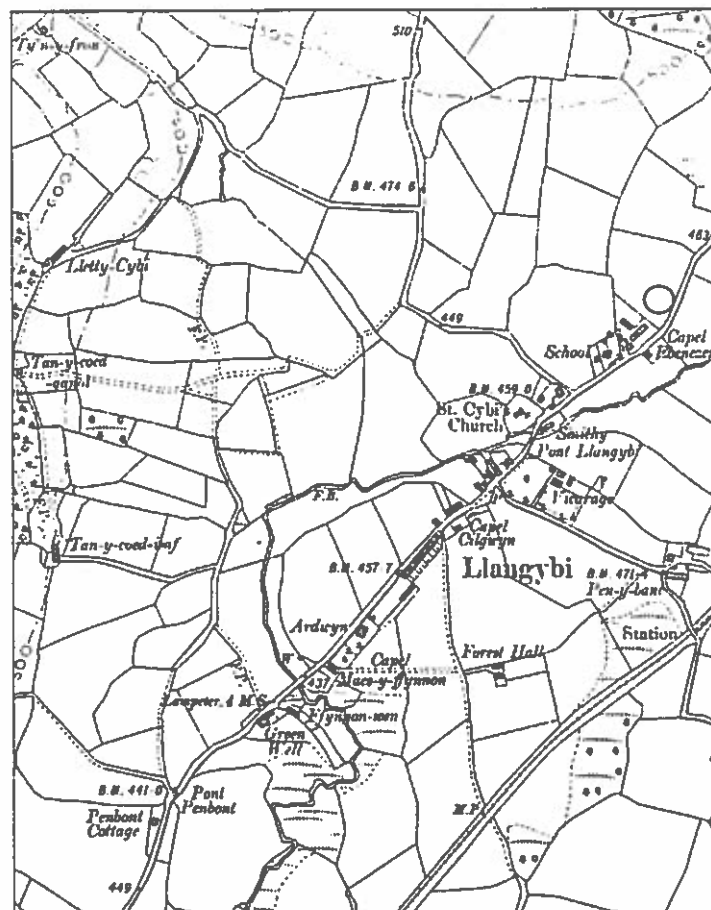


Figure 6. OS Second Edition Map of 1903 (site location highlighted).



Figure 7. Aerial Photo of 1951 (site location highlighted).



Figure 8. Enlarged view of part of aerial photo of 1951 showing field adjacent to Ty Gwyn.



Figure 9. Aerial Photo of 1975.



Figure 10. Aerial Photo of 2006.

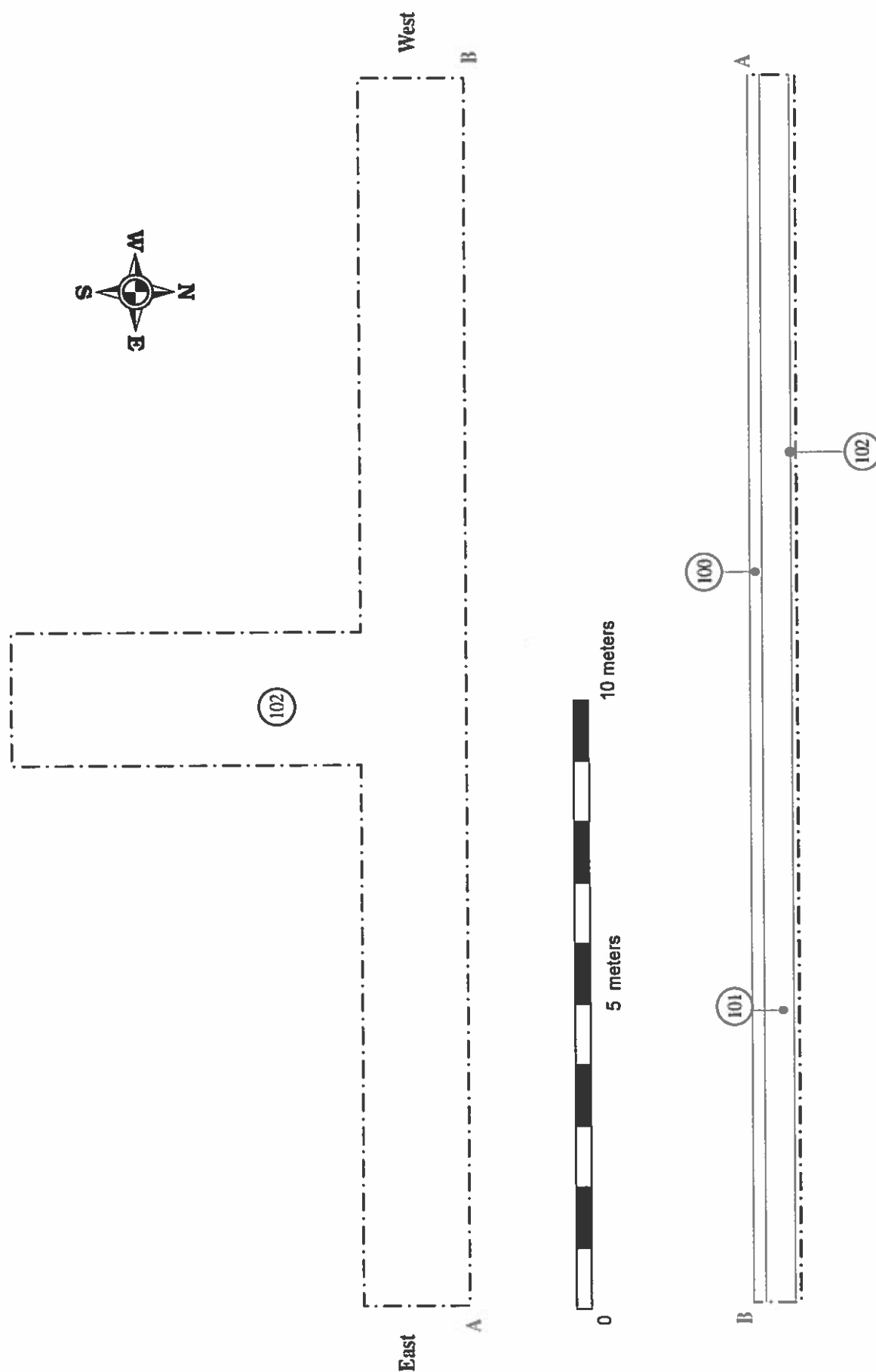


Figure 11. Trench 1 - Ground Plan and Section A-B.

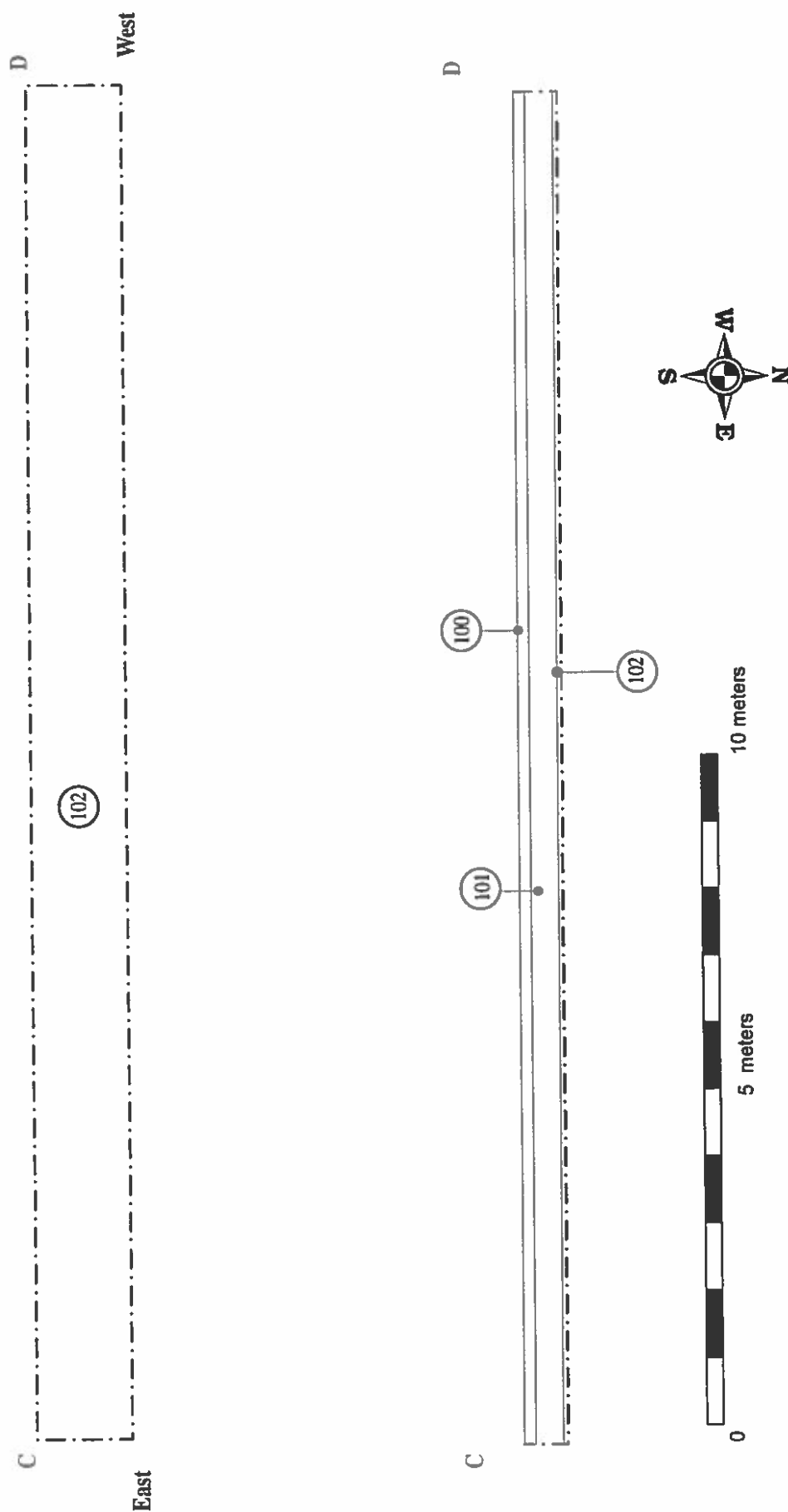


Figure 12. Trench 2 - Ground Plan and Section C-D.

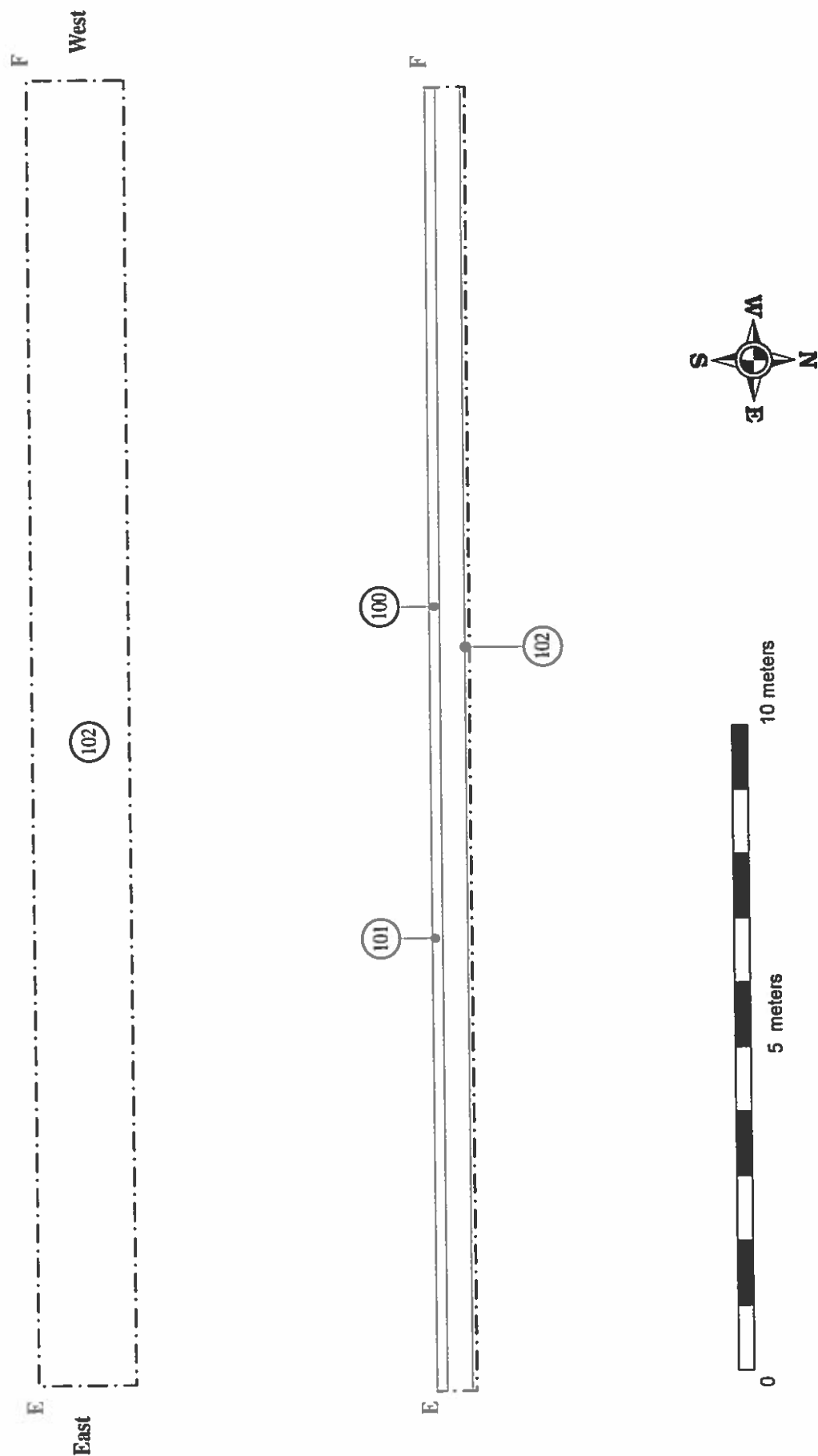


Figure 13. Trench 2 - Ground Plan and Section E-F



APPENDIX II:

Photo plates



Plate 1. Area of proposed development. Looking eastward across field.



Plate 2. Area of proposed development. Looking westwards.



Plate 3. Trench 1. Looking west.



Plate 4. Trench 1. Looking east.



Plate 5. Trench 1. North-south transect.



Plate 6. Trench 1. Typical section through Trench 1.



Plate 9. Trench 2. Looking west.



Plate 10. Trench 2. Typical section.



Plate 11. Trench 3. Looking west.



Plate 12.. Trench 3. Looking east.



Plate 13. Trench 3. Typical section.



APPENDIX III: Context Register

SUMMARY OF CONTEXTS

Ty Gwyn, Llangybi, Ceredigion.

CONTEXTS

Trench 1

- 100. Top soil
- 101. Mid-brown / orange sub soil
- 102. Sandy shale gravels inter-mixed with clays and other glacial deposits

Trench 2

- 200. Top soil
- 201. Mid-brown / orange sub soil
- 202. Sandy shale gravels inter-mixed with clays and other glacial deposits

Trench 3

- 300. Top soil
- 301. Mid-brown / orange sub soil
- 302. Sandy shale gravels inter-mixed with clays and other glacial deposits



APPENDIX IV: Archive Cover Sheet

ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

Ty Gwyn, Llangybi, Ceredigion.

ARCHIVE DESTINATION – DAT, Llandeilo

Site Name: **Ty Gwyn, Llangybi, Ceredigion.**

Site Code: **TGL/07/FE**

PRN:

NPRN : **N/A**

SAM: **N/A**

Other Ref No: **HRSW Report No. 112**

NGR: **SN 6610 5340**

Site Type: **Undated cropmarks**

Project Type: **Field Evaluation**

Project Officer: **Richard Scott Jones**

Project Dates: **June 2nd 2007**

Categories Present: **N/A**

Location of Original Archive: **HRSW**

Location of duplicate Archives: **DAT, Llandeilo**

Number of Finds Boxes: **N/A**

Location of Finds: **N/A**

Museum Reference: **N/A**

Copyright: **HRSW**

Restrictions to access: **None**

