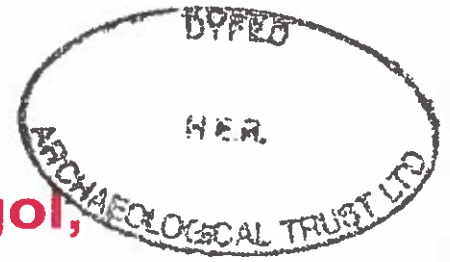


Condition See 23
evaluation -
dissemination of
work done on site
breaching conditions

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Plot 1 Cae dany'r Ysgol, Llanwnnen, Ceredigion.

Archaeological Evaluation



By
Richard Scott Jones (BA Hons, MA, MIFA)



ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Cae dany'r Ysgol, Llanwnnen, Ceredigion

By
Richard Scott Jones (*BA Hons, MA, MIFA*)

Prepared for:
Mr and Mrs P Grove
Riverside
Llanrhidan
Gower,
Swansea
SA3 1ER

On behalf of:

Date: 28th November 2007

HRSW Report No: 118



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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Fig 01: Location map.

Fig 02: Location Map (b)

Fig 03: Proposal plan

Fig 04: Section drawing

Plates

Plate 01-02: Area of development

Plates 03-04: Typical section

Non Technical Summary

The following report is the result of archaeological work undertaken by Heritage Recording Services Wales as a result of a planning condition for an archaeological evaluation prior to the ground work for the erection of a new dwelling at Plot 1, Cae dan'yr Ysgol, Llanwnnen, Ceredigion.

The evaluation was designed to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on the site.

A preliminary visit to the site revealed that ground works had already commenced on the site for the development, with the ground surface reduced to a level where a full archaeological evaluation could not be undertaken. However an inspection was made of the immediate site and records made of exposed sections, which implied that there had likely been no significant archaeological remains present on the site.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The following report is the result of archaeological work undertaken by Heritage Recording Services Wales as a result of a planning condition for an archaeological evaluation prior to the ground work for the erection of a new dwelling at Plot 1, Cae dan'yr Ysgol, Llanwnnen, Ceredigion.
- 1.2 After being contacted by Mr and Mrs Grove of Riverside, Gower, Swansea, to undertake the archaeological work, HRSW submitted a project specification to Cambria Archaeology, the regional Archaeological Trust in Llandeilo, detailing the schedule of works in late November 2007. This specification was approved and the work was undertaken late November 2007.
- 1.3 All works were undertaken in accordance with both the IFA's *Standards and guidance: for an archaeological evaluation*, and current Health and Safety legislation.

Planning Background

- 1.4 Planning permission was granted by Ceredigion County Council (*Application number: A060372*) to Mrs and Mrs Grove, to erect a new two-storey dwelling in a plot called Cae dany'r Ysgol, Llanwnnen, Ceredigion (NGR: SN 53270 47130). A condition for an archaeological scheme of works was attached to this permission. This archaeological scheme entailed an archaeological evaluation within the footprint of the proposed new dwelling.

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

- 1.5 The location of the proposed development lies in an area of land known as 'Cae dany'r Ysgol', approximately 250m northwest of the Scheduled Ancient Monument known as 'Castell Ddu' (NGR: SN 5331 4717) in the village of Llanwnnen, Ceredigion. The site lies at approx. 130m O.D on a gentle sloping meadow of land on the south-western corner of Llanwnnen crossroads. To the east the land drops down to steeply whereupon meeting the River Grannel.

Geology

- 1.6 The geology of the area is a sedimentary rock of an Undivided Llandovery series. Local geology indicates an area of sandy gravels and shales.

Brief Historical & Archaeological Background

- 1.7 The village of Llanwnnen is described by Samuel Lewis in his *Topographical Dictionary of Wales* dated

1833 as such:

"LLANWNNEN (LLAN-WNEN), a parish in the upper division of the hundred of MOYTHEN, county of CARDIGAN, SOUTH WALES, 3 1/4 miles (W. by S.) from Lampeter, containing 328 inhabitants. This parish is bounded on the south by the river Teifi, and is intersected by the Granell, which flows into the Vale of Teifi, to its confluence with the superior stream, and on the turnpike road from, Lampeter to Cardigan. The surrounding scenery is beautifully picturesque, and the views of the adjacent country comprehend many objects of interest and features of pleasing character. On the bank of the Granell is a moated mound, called Castell Dû which was probably crowned with a fort for defending the river and the pass of the vale, but which now serves only to give name to the farm on which it is situated; and there is also a small encampment on the hill. In a field attached to a farm, called Cevn Llew Trêv, some curious silver coins were dug up a few years since. About a mile from the turnpike road, and in the vale of the Granell, is Llwyn y Groes, the deserted seat of the family of Jones of Neuadd, in the adjoining parish. The mansion, which is spacious and handsome, is finely situated in the midst of flourishing plantations, and the grounds comprehend much beautiful scenery. A fair is held on December 13th. The living is a discharged vicarage, with which that of Silian is consolidated, in the archdeaconry of Cardigan, and diocese of St. David's, rated in the king's books at £3.4.9 1/2 endowed with £400 royal bounty, and £400 parliamentary grant, and in the patronage of the Bishop, to whom two-thirds of the tithes are appropriated, the other third belonging to the vicar. The church, dedicated to St. Gwynin, is a small edifice, without either tower or spire, and possessing no architectural details of importance. There is a place of worship for Unitarians. The average annual expenditure for the maintenance of the poor is £ 159." (*Samuel Lewis 1833.*)

1.8 Kelly's Directory of South Wales of 1895 also describes the village of Llanwnnen as follows:

"Llanwnnen is a parish in the county of Cardigan on the road from Cardigan to Lampeter, and is 3 miles south-west-by-west from Lampeter station on the Manchester and Milford railway, 33 south from Aberystwith and 265 from London, in Moyddyn hundred, Lampeter union and county court district, Upper Moyddyn petty sessional division, and in the rural deanery of Lampeter, archdeaconry of Cardigan and diocese of St. David's.

The church of St. Gwynnin is an ancient building of stone, in the Gothic style of the 15th century, consisting of chancel and nave, and a western tower with short spire, containing one bell: the church was restored in 1873, at a cost of £883, and affords 140 sittings. The register of baptisms dates from the year 1799, marriages, 1763; and burials, 1796. The living is a vicarage, with the chapelry of Silian annexed, tithe rent-charge £244, average £180, with 41 acres of glebe, net income £193, in the gift of the Bishop of St. David's, and held since 1878 by the Rev. David Morris, who resides at Silian.

The principal landowner is Thomas Hugh Rice Hughes esq. D.L., J.P.

The soil and subsoil is gravel and slate. The area comprises 2,545 acres, of which 3 are water; rateable value, £1,077; the population in 1891 was 269.

Post Office.—Titus Evans, sub-postmaster. Letters through Llanybyther R.S.O. Carmarthenshire are received at 8.30 a.m.; dispatched at 2.45 p.m, Postal orders are issued here, but not paid. The nearest money order & telegraph office is at Llanybyther.

School (Mixed), built for 120 children; average attendance, 60 "(from *Kelly's Directory of South Wales 1895*).

1.9 The medieval mound or 'motte' known as Castell Ddu, as mentioned by Samuel Lewis in 1833 is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM / CD 117). It is a concentric ringwork, possibly dating from

the 12th century. The mound is within a small enclosure, c. 65' by 50', resting on steep slopes that run down to the Afon Grannell. The mound has been identified as 'Castell Ddu', a farm further southwest having seemingly adopted the name at some time in its past. Defined by banks up to 4.2m high externally. Any ditch has been levelled, whilst there is an entrance to the W. and a possible building platform in the N. part.

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 A preliminary site visit revealed that ground work for the development had already been commenced on the site making a full archaeological evaluation not possible. As such, the whole site was field-walked and inspected for possible residual remains within the banks of cleared spoil and exposed sections, which may have held evidence of any potential archaeology.
- 3.2 After the field inspection, limited cleaning of the exposed sections within the cleared area was undertaken in order to record a typical stratigraphic sequence within the area of the development.
- 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 exposed section 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 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 preliminary assessment a rapid study was made 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 show the mound of Castell Ddu, but do name the farm to the southwest as Castell Ddu.

Tithe Map for the Parish of Llanwnnen 1840

- 4.2 Study of the Tithe Map of 1840 for the parish of Llanwnnen shows that the area at the time was a meadow with no buildings present at this time, but the area was known as 'Tyn Porth', which literally translates as 'Cottage of the Gateway'. This likely relates to a building further north-east in the area of the cross roads and maybe reference to a Toll House.

OS First Edition Map of 1887

- 4.3 Area of land is still meadow land.

OS Second Edition Map of 1906

- 4.3 Area of land is still meadow land.

5 Results of the Field Evaluation *(see Figs 3-6)*

- 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.
- 5.2 A preliminary visit to the proposed development site revealed that ground work had already commenced on the land making a full archaeological evaluation not possible. As such a field-walk of the site inspecting the spoil heaps and the exposed sections was undertaken and a typical area of stratigraphy was recorded.
- 5.3 The local stratigraphy consisted of an approx. 0.20m deep mid brown/yellow top soil (100), fairly sandy in make up. Below this was an approx. 0.20m deep sub soil made up of grey/yellow natural sands, clays, gravels and shale (101). Below this was a natural bedrock of grey shale (102).
- 5.4 No archaeological deposits, features or finds were recorded or recovered from this assessment.

Summary of results

- 5.5 No archaeological deposits, features or finds were recorded or recovered from the assessment at Cae dany'r Ysgol, Llanwnnen, Ceredigion.

5 Conclusion

- 5.1 The archaeological evaluation at Cae dany'r Ysgol, Llanwnnen, Ceredigion, was unable to be undertaken as ground work had already commenced on the site making a full archaeological evaluation not possible. However a field walk and inspection of the spoil heaps and exposed sections across the entire site did not reveal any significant archaeological deposits, features or finds. The natural geology became exposed at approx. 0.40-50m.

6 Acknowledgements

Thanks to; Charles Hill at Cambria Archaeology for his help and advice.

7 Bibliography

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SALTER, M, 1996, *The Castles of South West Wales* (Malvern) p46 [slight]

Cartographic Sources

- Tithe Map of 1840 for Parish of Llanwnnen (NLW)
- Ordnance Survey First Edition Six inch series 1887 Sheet No XXXIV (NLW)
- Ordnance Survey Second Edition Six inch series 1906 Sheet No XXXIV (NLW)



APPENDIX I: Figs & Illustrations

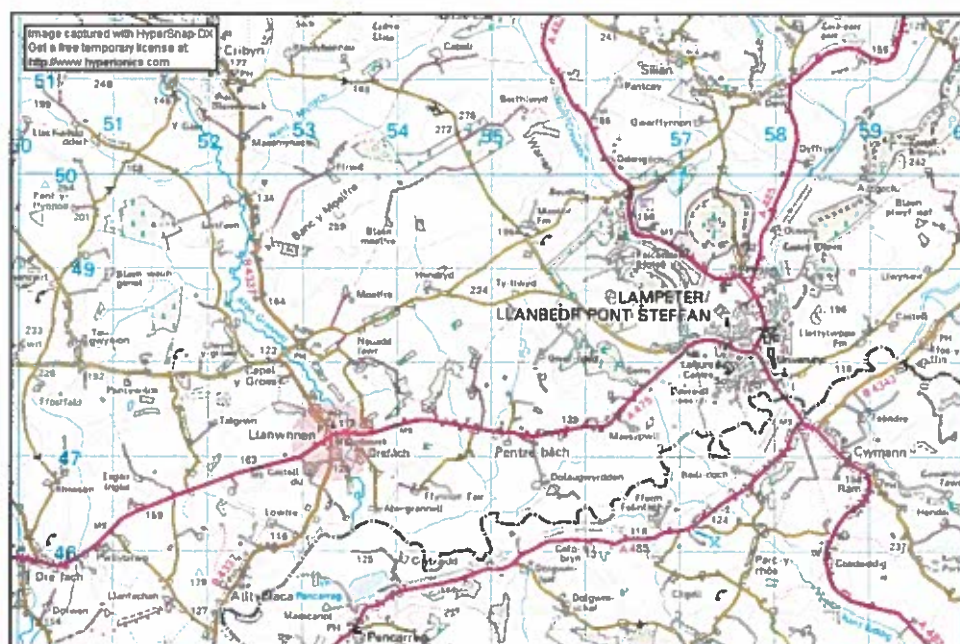


Figure 1. Location map showing site of Cae dany'r Ysgol, Llanwnnen, Ceredigion.
(OS 1:25000 map)

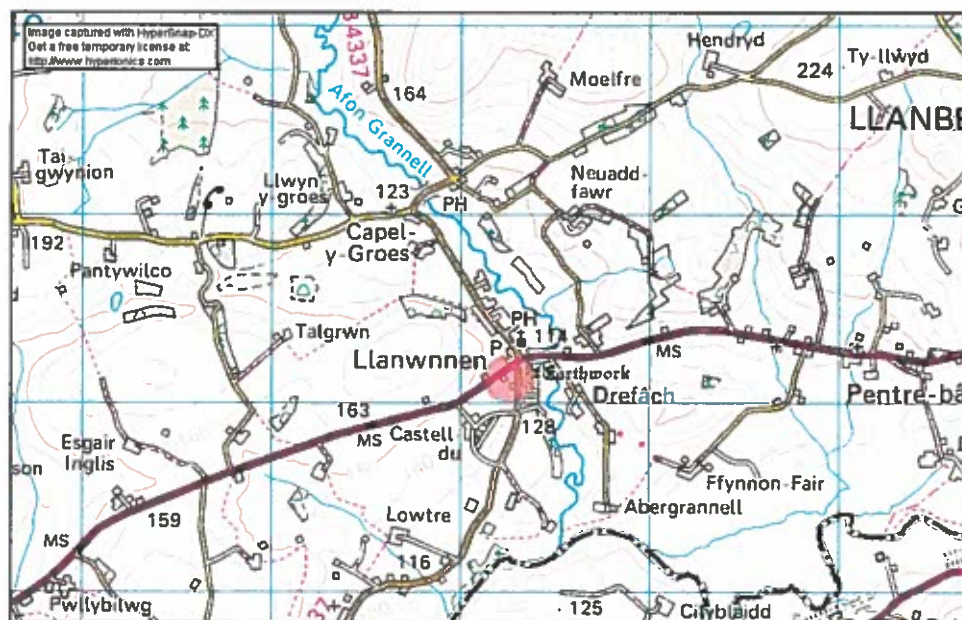


Figure 2. Enlarged view of location map showing site of Cae dany'r Ysgol, Llanwnnen, Ceredigion.
(OS 1:25000 map)

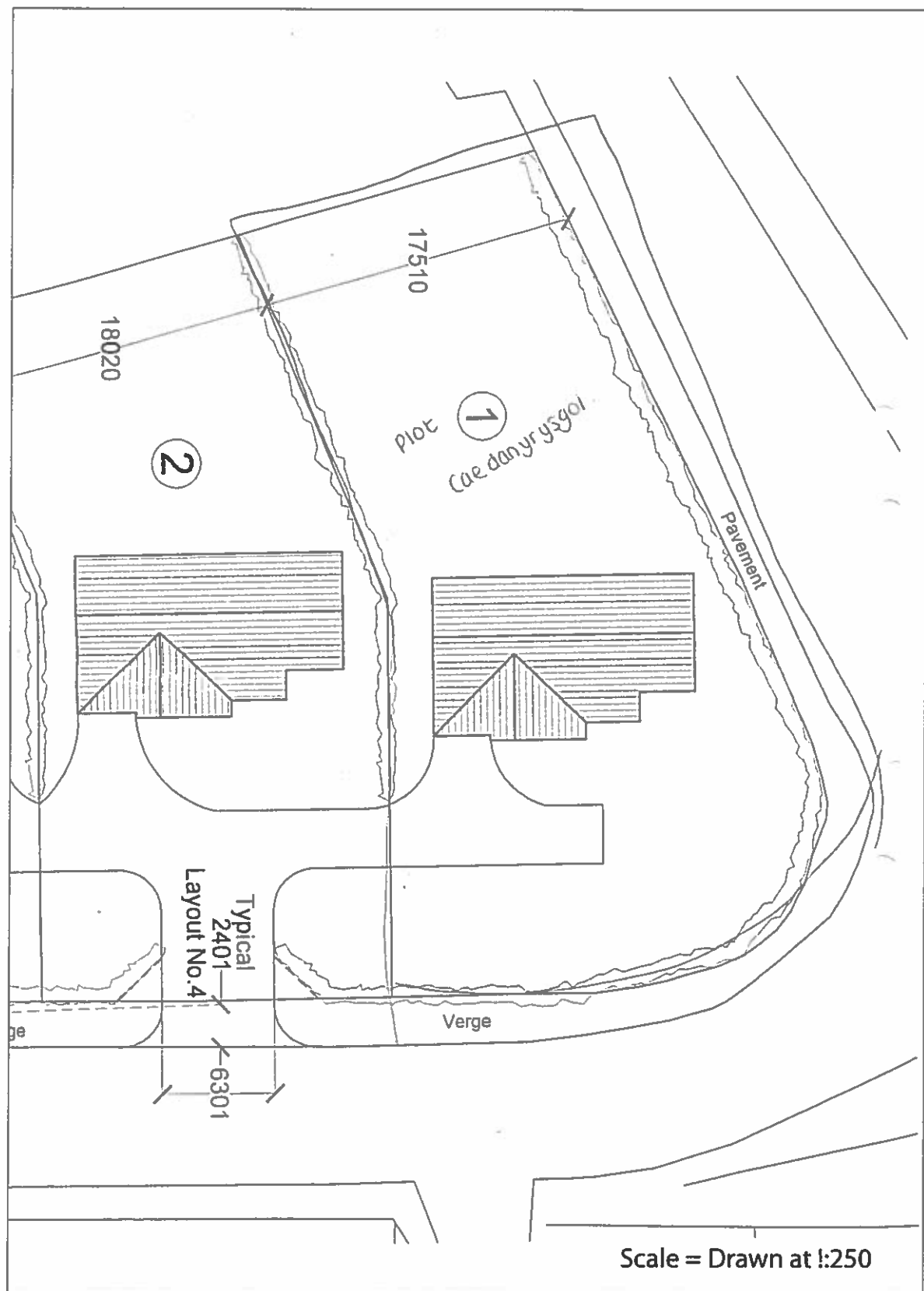


Figure 3. Site plan showing proposed development at Cae danyr-Ysgol, Llanwnnen, Lampeter.

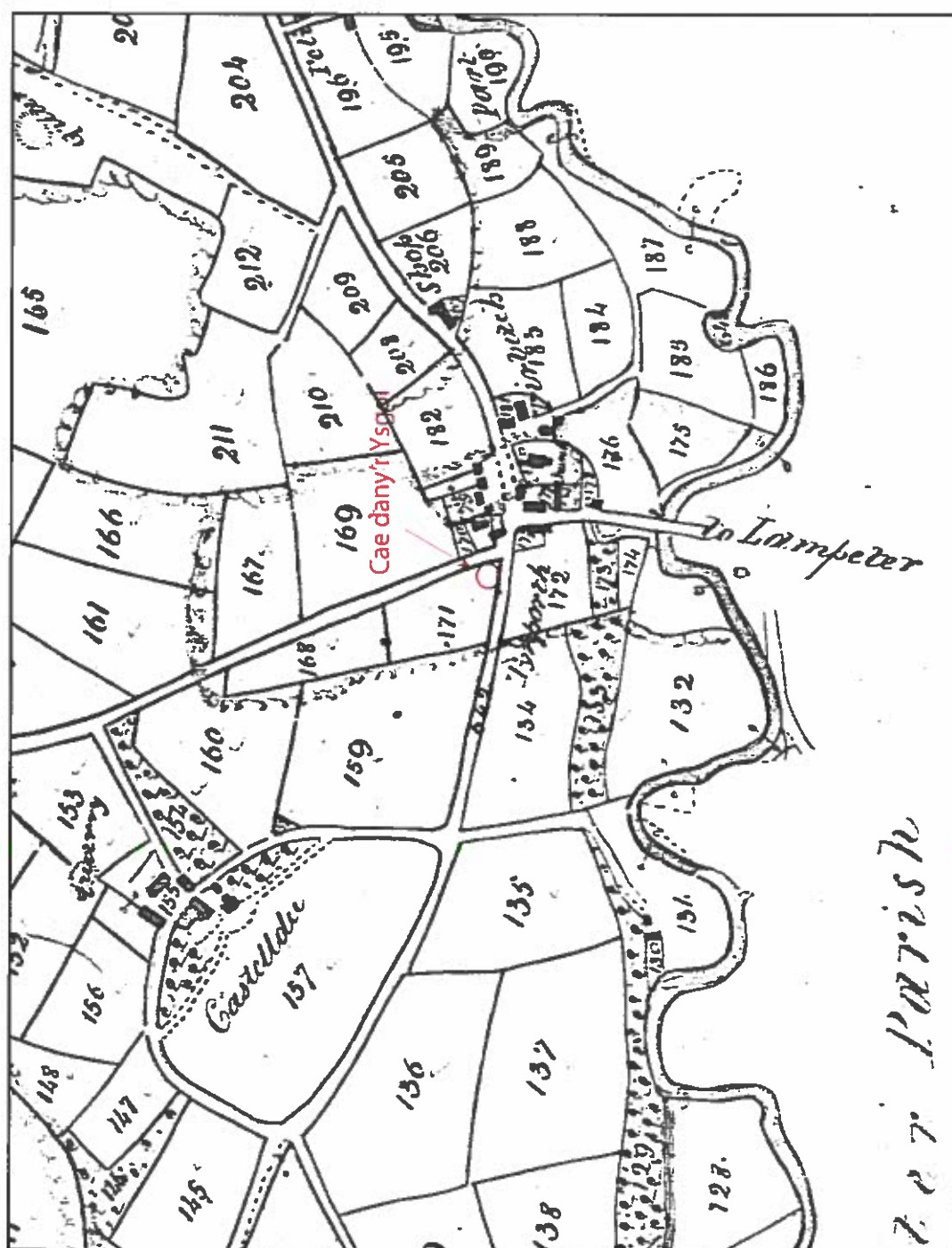


Figure 4. Tithe Map of 1840 (site location highlighted).

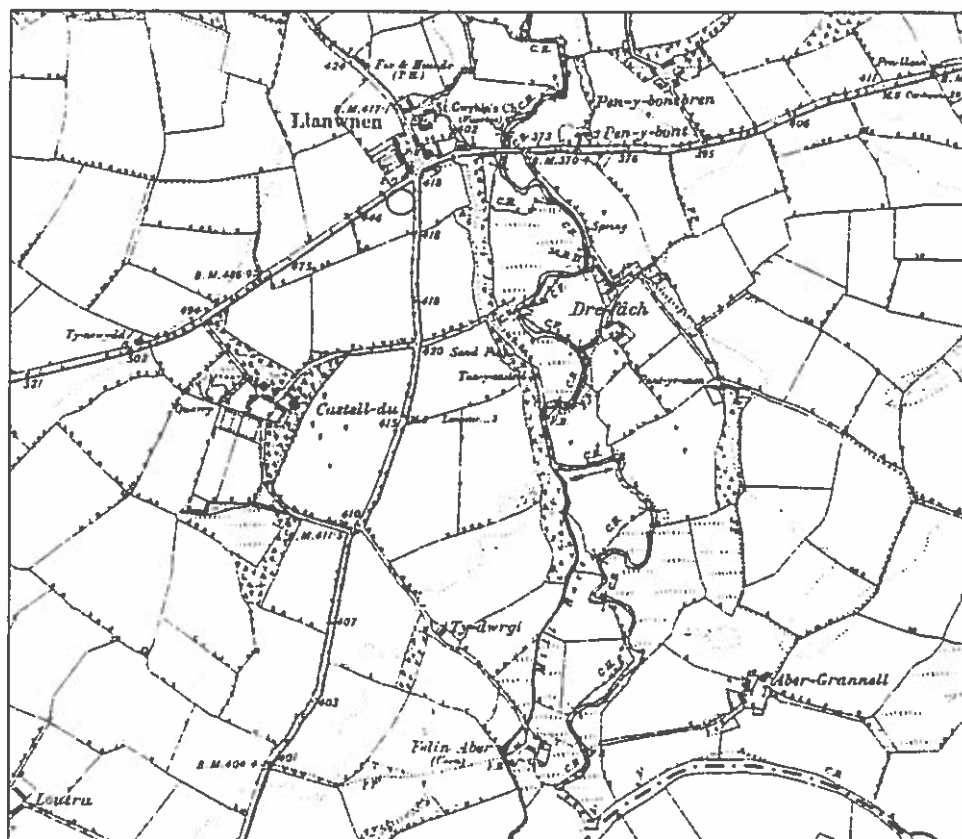


Figure 5. OS First Edition Map of 1887 (site location highlighted).

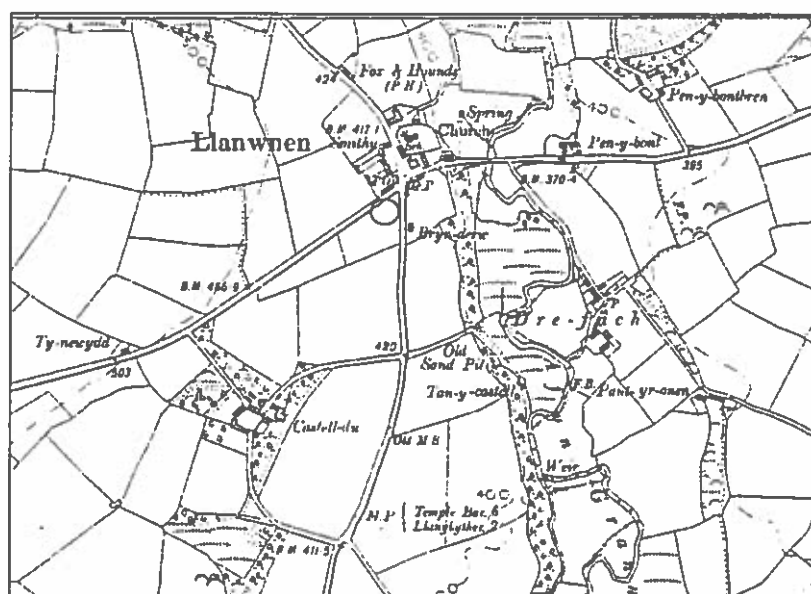


Figure 6. OS Second Edition Map of 1906 (site location highlighted).



HRSW

APPENDIX II:

Photo plates



Plate 1. Typical exposed section across entire area of site. Looking southward.



Plate 2. Area of development cleared for development. Looking northward toward Castell Ddu earthwork.



APPENDIX III: Context Register

SUMMARY OF CONTEXTS

Cae dany'r Ysgol, Llanwnnen, Ceredigion.

CONTEXTS

Typical section

- 100. Top soil of mid brown soil with orange sand intermixed
- 101. Sand/gravel/clay/shale
- 102. Grey shale



APPENDIX III: Archive Cover Sheet

ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

Cae dany'r Ysgol, Llanwnnen, Ceredigion.

ARCHIVE DESTINATION – RCAHMW

Site Name:	Cae dany'r Ysgol, Llanwnnen, Ceredigion.
Site Code:	CYL/07/FE
PRN:	
NPRN :	N/A
SAM:	N/A
Other Ref No:	HRSW Report No. 118
NGR:	SN 53270 47130
Site Type:	Medieval Motte
Project Type:	Field Evaluation
Project Officer:	Richard Scott Jones
Project Dates:	Nov 25th 2007
Categories Present:	N/A
Location of Original Archive:	RCAHMW
Location of duplicate Archives:	HRSW
Number of Finds Boxes:	N/A
Location of Finds:	N/A
Museum Reference:	N/A
Copyright:	HRSW
Restrictions to access:	None

