

CAMBRIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECTS LTD.

Land Adjacent to Afon Breninig, Tregaron, Ceredigion

Archaeological Watching Brief



By
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CAP Report No. 526

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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Tregaron, Ceredigion**

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Prepared for:
The Environment Agency

CAP Report No: 526

Date: July 2008



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Non Technical Summary

This report results from work undertaken by Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd (CAP) for The Environment Agency on land adjacent to the Afon Breninig, Tregaron, Ceredigion. The report draws upon the results of the archaeological watching brief undertaken during topsoil stripping for the creation of a temporary site compound.

A small assemblage of 19th and 20th century pottery represent the only archaeological finds.

1 Introduction

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 In July 2008 Cambrian Archaeological Projects (CAP) carried out an archaeological watching brief during ground works on a site adjacent to the Afon Breninig in Tregaron, Ceredigion.
- 1.1.2 This work was undertaken on behalf of the Environment Agency working alongside their on site contractors Morrison Construction Ltd.
- 1.1.3 The development concerns the construction of a temporary construction compound located at NGR SN 67762 59448 approximately 160m Ordnance Datum (Fig 1).

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The natural soils in the area are composed of the Rheidol series defined as glacio-fluvial or river terrace gravels beneath well drained fine loamy soils, shallow in places (Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1983).
- 1.2.2 The underlying solid geology is composed of a sedimentary formation in the Llandovery series from the Silurian era (British Geological Survey, 1979).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 Tregaron falls within the Upland Ceredigion Landscape Character Area.
- 1.3.2 The town is of historic interest with evidence of an early medieval Christian presence, although the church was rebuilt in the 19th century on a mound of reputed Bronze Age date.

2 Aims and Objectives

2.1 Watching brief

- 2.1.1 To record any archaeological deposits within the development area during ground works within the development area (Fig 2) and report on the results.

3 Watching Brief Methodology

3.1 Scope of Fieldwork

- 3.1.1 All ground works were undertaken with an archaeologist present on site.
- 3.1.2 Chris E Smith (AIFA) undertook the watching brief.
- 3.1.3 The area of the compound was stripped of topsoil by a single 8 ton Hitachi 360° mechanical excavator.
- 3.1.4 All works were undertaken in accordance with both the IFA's *Standards and Guidance: for an archaeological watching briefs* and current Health and Safety legislation.

4 Watching Brief Results

4.1 Soils and ground conditions

- 4.1.1 Generally the site and weather conditions were good with no heavy rain during the ground works.

4.2 Distribution of deposits

- 4.2.1 Only a single topsoil deposit was noted, it being ubiquitous across the stripped area.
- 4.2.2 The topsoil was stripped only to an extremely shallow depth, approximately 0.05m max. This involved the removal of the vegetation and root matter only.

5 Discussion and Interpretation

5.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 5.1.1 The watching brief was not hampered by any modern building or bad weather.
- 5.1.2 The overall findings of the evaluation were consistent with the area being used for grazing/rough ground for at least the last 100 years.

5.2 Overall interpretation

- 5.2.1 The watching brief revealed no evidence of archaeological remains other than relatively modern ceramics.
- 5.2.2 It should be noted, however, that this may be due to the soil only being stripped to a very shallow depth. Neither subsoil nor natural was exposed in any location.

6 Acknowledgements

- 6.1.1 Thanks to the on site staff for all their assistance.

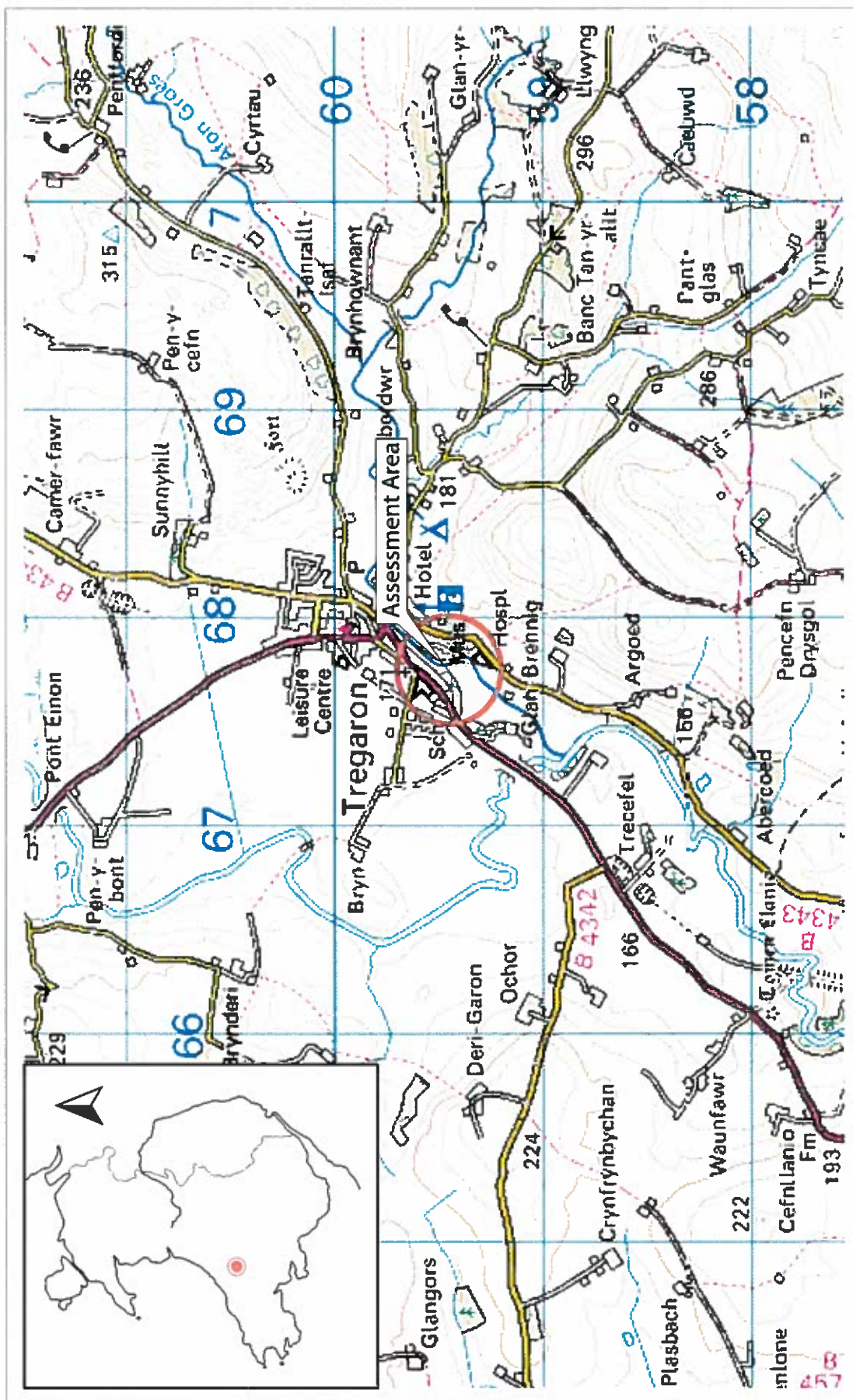


Fig 1: Map showing location of assessment area

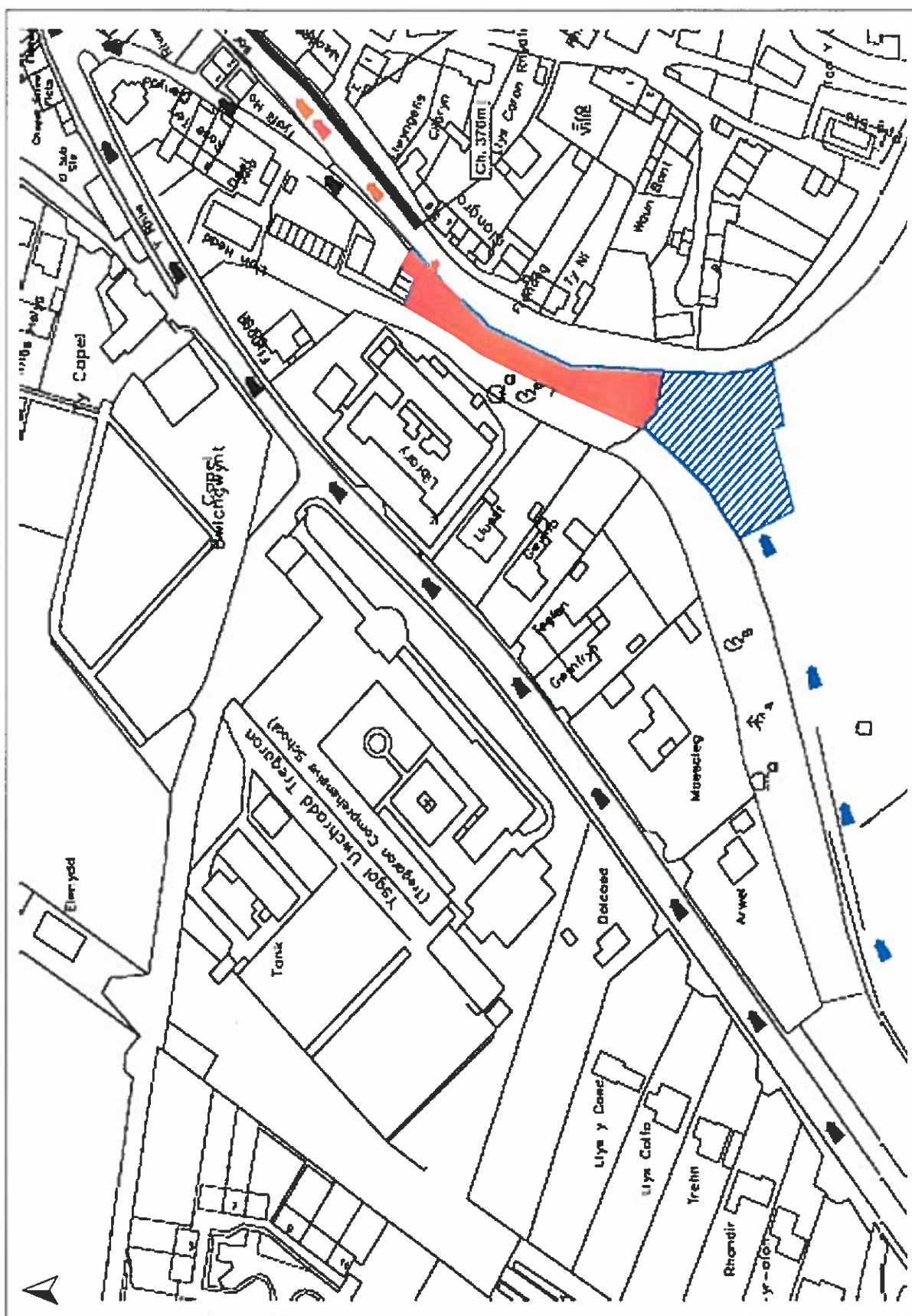


Fig 2: Map showing location of topsoil strip (Blue).

ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

Tregaron, Ceredigion

Site Name:	Land adjacent to Afon Brennig
Site Code:	TREG/08/WB
PRN:	N/A
NPRN:	N/A
SAM:	N/A
Other Ref No:	Project No. 526
NGR:	SN 67762 59448
Site Type:	Green field
Project Type:	Watching brief
Project Manager:	Chris E Smith
Project Dates:	July 2008
Categories Present:	N/A
Location of Original Archive:	RCAHMW
Location of duplicate Archives:	N/A
Number of Finds Boxes:	N/A
Location of Finds:	N/A
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