

HERITAGE
RECORDING SERVICES **WALES**



**Land adjacent to
Beulah Independent Chapel,
Beulah, Ceredigion.**

Archaeological Appraisal



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



ARCHAEOLOGICAL APPRAISAL

Land adjacent to Beulah Independent Chapel, Beulah, Ceredigion.

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

Prepared for:
Dyfed Archaeological Trust
Shire Hall
8 Carmarthen Street,
Llandeilo
Carmarthenshire
SA19 6AF.

On behalf of:
Mr D. Martin
Cynefin
Beulah
Ceredigion
SA38 9QB

HRSW Report No. 120



HERITAGE
RECORDING SERVICES WALES

Pen-y-fan, 11 Forest Lane, Llangybi, Ceredigion SA48 8LZ
Tel: 01570 493312 OR 07765 584170 ; email: hrrswales@tiscali.co.uk

Contents

i) LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

1. INTRODUCTION	Page 01
2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	Page 01
3. METHODOLOGY	Page 02
4. RESULTS OF DESK BASED ASSESSMENT	Page 02
5. RESULTS OF WALKOVER SURVEY	Page 03
6. CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS	Page 05
7. BIBLIOGRAPHY	Page 04
APPENDIX I: Figures & Illustrations	Page 05
APPENDIX II: Photo plates	
APPENDIX III: Archive Cover Sheet	

Copyright Notice:

Heritage Recording Services Wales retain copyright of this report under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act, 1988, and have granted a licence to Mr D Martin to use and reproduce the material contained within.

i) List of Illustrations

Figures

- Fig 01: Location map.
- Fig 02: Location Map (b)
- Fig 03: Site plan
- Fig 04: Tithe map 1837-39
- Fig 05: OS 1st ed map 1887
- Fig 06: OS 2nd ed map 1906
- Fig 07: Enlarged OS 1st ed map
- Fig 08: enlarged OS 2nd ed map
- Fig 09: RAF aerial photo 1946

Plates

- Plate 01-04: Various views of area of proposed development.

Non Technical Summary

The following report is the result of an archaeological appraisal prior to planning permission being granted on an area of land adjacent to Beulah Independent Chapel, Beulah, near Newcastle Emlyn, Ceredigion.

The appraisal consisted of a rapid desk based assessment and a walkover of the land. Study of readily available documents has shown that the land appears to have been agricultural meadow land enclosed at some time in the mid 1860's following the construction of the Beulah Independent Chapel, which prompted the foundations of Beulah village, formerly known as 'Blaen Pant Arfi'. The walkover of the land revealed no significant features across the entire area other than the existing enclosure walls and boundaries, many of which are likely 18th century in date following the enclosure acts.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The following report is the result of an archaeological appraisal prior to planning permission being granted on an area of land adjacent to Beulah Independent Chapel, Beulah, near Newcastle Emlyn, Ceredigion.
- 1.2 The assessment consisted of a rapid desk based assessment of all readily available documentary sources including cartographic sources covering the area under study, and a walkover of the site in order to determine the presence of any archaeological sites or features not disclosed from the desk based assessment alone. The assessment was undertaken in mid August 2008.

Planning Background

- 1.3 A planning proposal (Ref: JE/A071029) was submitted to Ceredigion County Council by Pure Designs of Cilgerran on behalf of Messrs E and S Vitek, for residential development on land at Beulah, Newcastle Emlyn (centred on NGR: SN 2890 4620). Prior to permission being given by the Development Control Committee, Cambria Archaeology, also known as Dyfed Archaeological Trust, being archaeological advisors to the county, requested that a pre-determination archaeological assessment be undertaken on the land in order to fully inform the authority about the potential impact of the proposed development on the historic environment and to establish whether further assessment will be required.

Site Location and Description

- 1.4 The land under investigation is presently used as a garden and a meadow covering an area of approximately 4 hectares at the Beulah crossroads, approximately 3 miles northeast of Newcastle Emlyn and 3 miles south of Aberporth (centred on NGR: SN 2890 4620). The land is relatively flat and positioned at a height of approximately 180m A.O.D. It is enclosed by an old stone wall and hedge-bank with fairly mature trees interspersed along its length to the north and east. Immediately to the west is a modern residential dwelling known as 'Cynefin' and the Beulah Independent Chapel and cemetery, established in 1860.

Historical and Archaeological Background

- 1.5 The proposed development site lies within close proximity to several known sites of archaeological and historical interest including a Bronze Age barrow (PRN 11451), a possible Iron Age defended enclosure (PRN 35736) and several cropmark features, recently identified by the Royal Commission of Ancient and Historic Monuments in Wales (RCAHMW). Also approximately 400m northward from the village is the site of Crug Mawr, formerly identified in the early 19th century as a Norman motte, however records held in the

regional Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) identify the site as a Bronze Age Round Barrow.

2 Aims and Objectives

- 2.1 The main scope and objectives of the archaeological assessment were to reveal the nature, significance and, where possible, the chronology of any potential archaeology within the area of the proposed development. A rapid desk-based assessment, in accordance with standards and guidance as laid down by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (*By Laws: IFA Standards and Guidance 2001*), was undertaken to gain information about the known or potential archaeological resource within the given area (including presence or absence, character and extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and relative quality of the potential archaeological resource), in order to make an assessment of each resource's merit in 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 for further investigation, whether or not intrusive;
 - Where the character and value of the resource is not sufficiently defined to permit a mitigation strategy or other response to be devised; and/or
 - The formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research.
- 2.2 Following the rapid desk-based assessment, a walkover of the site was undertaken with the main objective in accordance with the standards and guidance laid down by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (*By Laws: IFA Standards and Guidance 2001*) 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 for further investigation, whether or not intrusive, where the character and value of the resource is not sufficiently defined to permit a mitigation strategy or other response to be devised; and/or
 - The formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research.
- 2.3 The walkover aimed to examine on the ground the land designated for the proposed development, and isolate and record any archaeology and historic landscape features that may survive within it.
- 2.4 All gathered material from the desk-based study and the walkover were to be combined and assessed, in order to identify areas where the proposed development may impact on the recognised archaeology and depending on the results of the study, any potential for mitigating these impacts.

3 Methodology

- 3.1 All work was conducted in compliance with the *Codes of Practice* of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 2000).
- 3.2 The assessment undertook a study of all readily available primary and secondary documentary, cartographic, pictorial, aerial/ground photographic sources in order to provide an historical framework for

any potential surviving archaeological remains. The sources consulted included all the following at the Sites and Monuments Record (Dyfed Archaeological Trust), the National Monuments Record (Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales, Aberystwyth) and the National Library of Wales (NLW, Aberystwyth)

A site visit

3.2 This set the context of the assessment, identifying:

- The location and character of the site and the location of any visible archaeological surface remains such as earthworks.
- The current ground conditions.

Maps

3.3 The following maps were included in the study:

- 1610 Speed map;
- Tithe, apportionment and parish map of Bettws-Ifan 1839
- Ordnance Survey maps from 1st Edition onwards 1887
- Ordnance Survey maps from 2nd Edition onwards 1906

Aerial photographs

3.4 Aerial photographs consulted included the RAF 1946 verticals held at the National Monuments Record (RCAHMS)

Methodology for the field walkover

3.4 A rapid walkover of the site was undertaken in order to:

- Assess any information previously obtained through the desk-based study;
- Identify the extent and condition of any visible archaeological monuments; and
- Assess the topography and geomorphology of the application site for its potential to contain buried remains of other archaeological sites and features.

3.5 The application site was field walked in the month of August 2008. Field walking was performed in transects of 50m. Pro-forma site visit forms were created where deemed necessary to ensure that all the relevant information was recorded at each feature and that recording was standardised throughout. When required, quick sketch plans were also drawn of newly discovered features. Photographs were also appropriated of all features whenever considered possible, necessary or relevant.

3.6 To aid the field study, a GPS device was used for plotting features to within 6-10m accuracy of the British National Grid. Copies of both the OS old 6 inch edition maps and printouts of 1:25 000 OS maps were also taken out into the field, along with all other necessary documentation on all known features.

4 Results of Desk Based Assessment (see figures 1-9)

4.3 The small village of Beulah is located within the old county of Cardiganshire and within the old parish of Bettws Ifan. Bettws Ifan is best described, in terms of history and community, by Samuel Thomas in his

of the enclosure bank and hedgerow enclosing the area of land appears to be 18th century in date, which may well be associated with the foundations of Troed-yr-House and its farm complex which was located further north toward the head of the stream.

6 Conclusions & Recommendations

- 6.1 The desk based assessment of readily available documentary sources and rapid walkover of the land adjacent to Beulah Independent Chapel has revealed that no archaeological sites or features are visible at the surface of the study area, however this does not mean that there isn't the possibility of hitherto unknown buried sites within the confines of the area.
- 6.2 The rapid desk based assessment has shown that the area of Beulah was formerly known as 'Blaen-pant-arfi', which likely translates as 'Head of the high dark hollow land'. The central part of the village prior to its true foundation in the mid 19th century, following the foundation of the Beulah Independent Chapel, appears to have been fairly wooded with only the building of Plas Newydd and a small *well* feature at the head of the spring near the stream to the north.
- 6.3 In the wider landscape the Historic Environment Records show that within the immediate landscape surrounding the area of the proposed development, there are several significant sites, one a possible Bronze Age round barrow and the other a possible Iron Age enclosure as revealed from Cropmark features. Both of these sites are fairly close to the proposed development area. Also north of the village is the site of the mound known as Crug Mawr on the OS 1st edition map of 1887, identified in the late 19th century as a possible Norman Motte, however recorded as a Bronze Age round barrow in the regional archaeological trust Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). This earthwork feature further highlights the significance of the immediate area in the prehistoric periods.
- 6.4 Because of the presence of fairly significant archaeological sites surrounding the proposed development area, two of them being fairly close, and the significance of the topography, it is suggested that any groundwork that takes place within the area of the proposed development be undertaken under archaeological watching brief conditions.

7. Bibliography

- Kelly Dictionary of Wales, 1895
- Lewis, Samuel, *Topographic Dictionary of Wales* (1833)

Cartographic Sources

- Tithe Map and Apportionment Records for parish of Bettws Ifan (1839)(NLW).
- Ordnance Survey First Edition Map of 1887 (Cardiganshire 1/10560 - Sheet 39NW)
- Ordnance Survey Second Edition Map of 1906 (Cardiganshire 1/10560 - Sheet 39NW)

Aerial Photos

- RAF Vertical AP 1946 (sheet 139) Sortie: 106G/UK/1424; Frame no: 4032-4033; Date: 15/04/1946



APPENDIX I: **Figs & Illustrations**



Figure 1. Location map showing location of land at Beulah. (OS 1:50000 map)

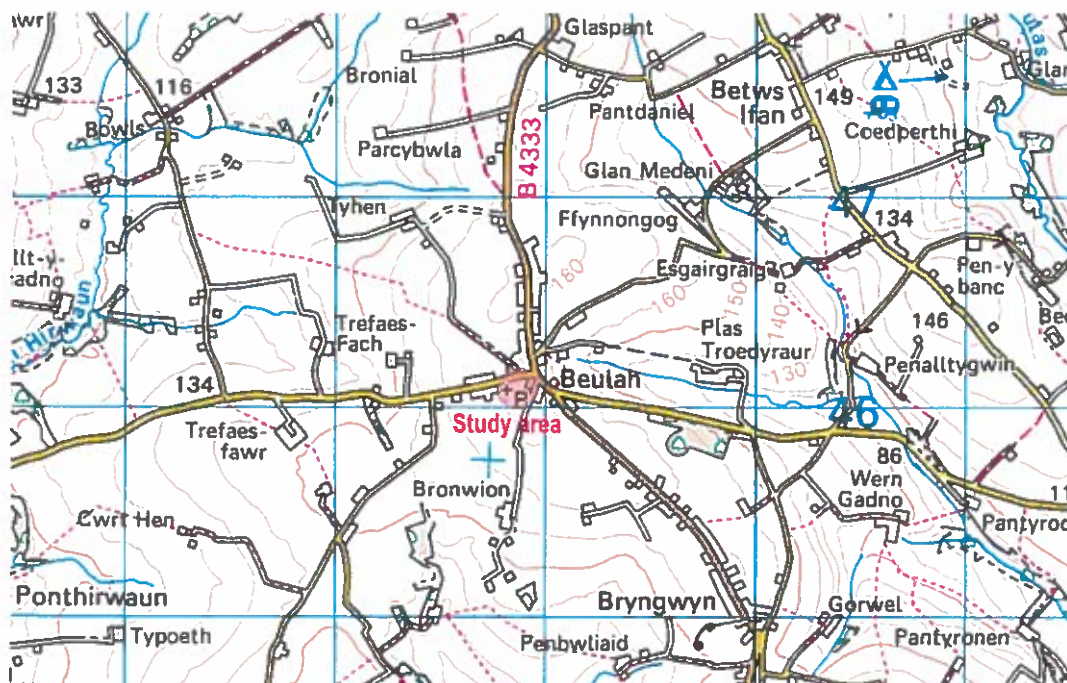


Figure 2. Enlarged view of location map showing location of land at Beulah, Ceredigion.
(OS 1:50000 map)



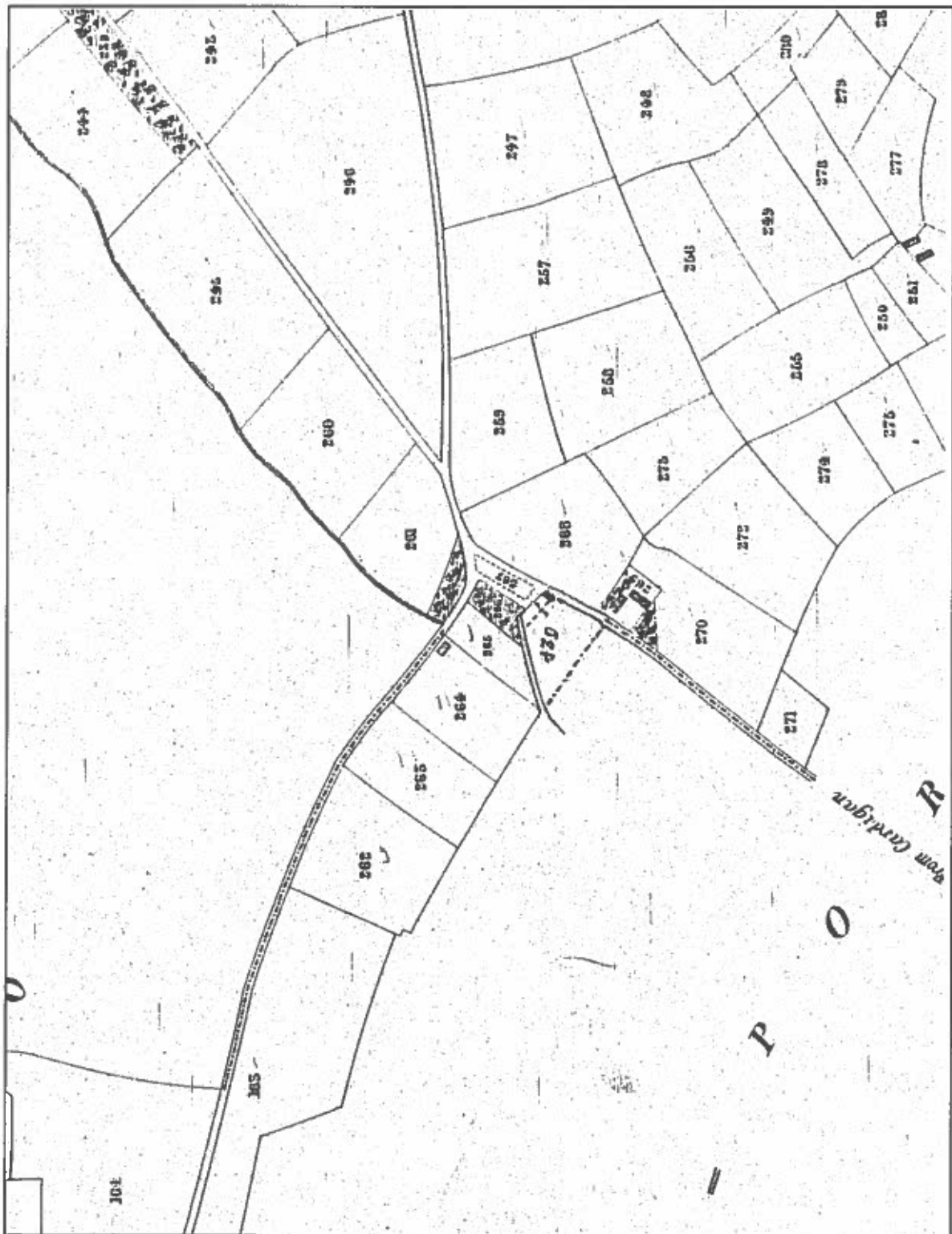


Figure 4. Part of tithe map of Belws Ifan parish (1837) showing area under investigation marked as No. 268.

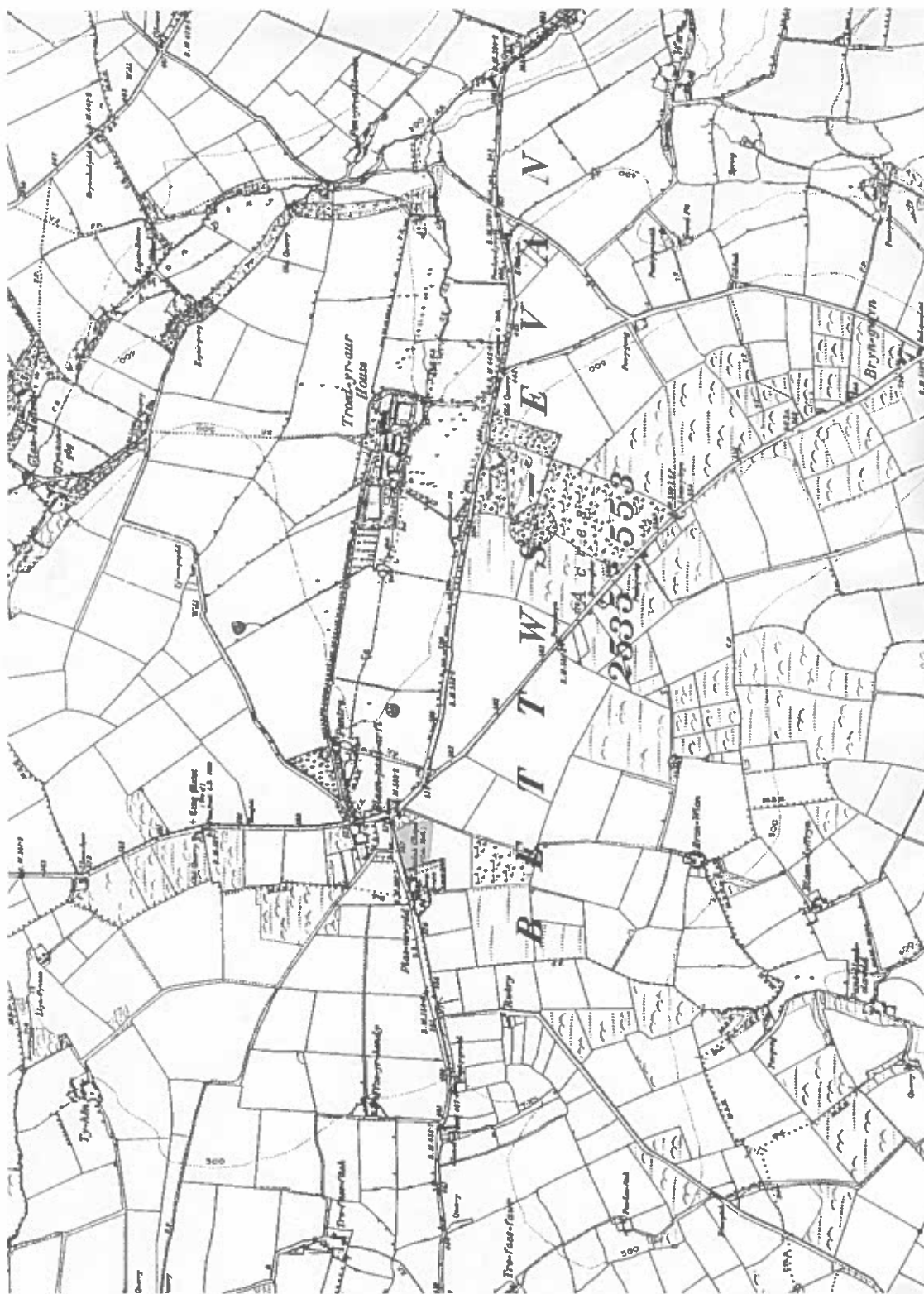


Figure 5 . Part of Ordnance Survey 1st edition map of 1887 showing area under study.

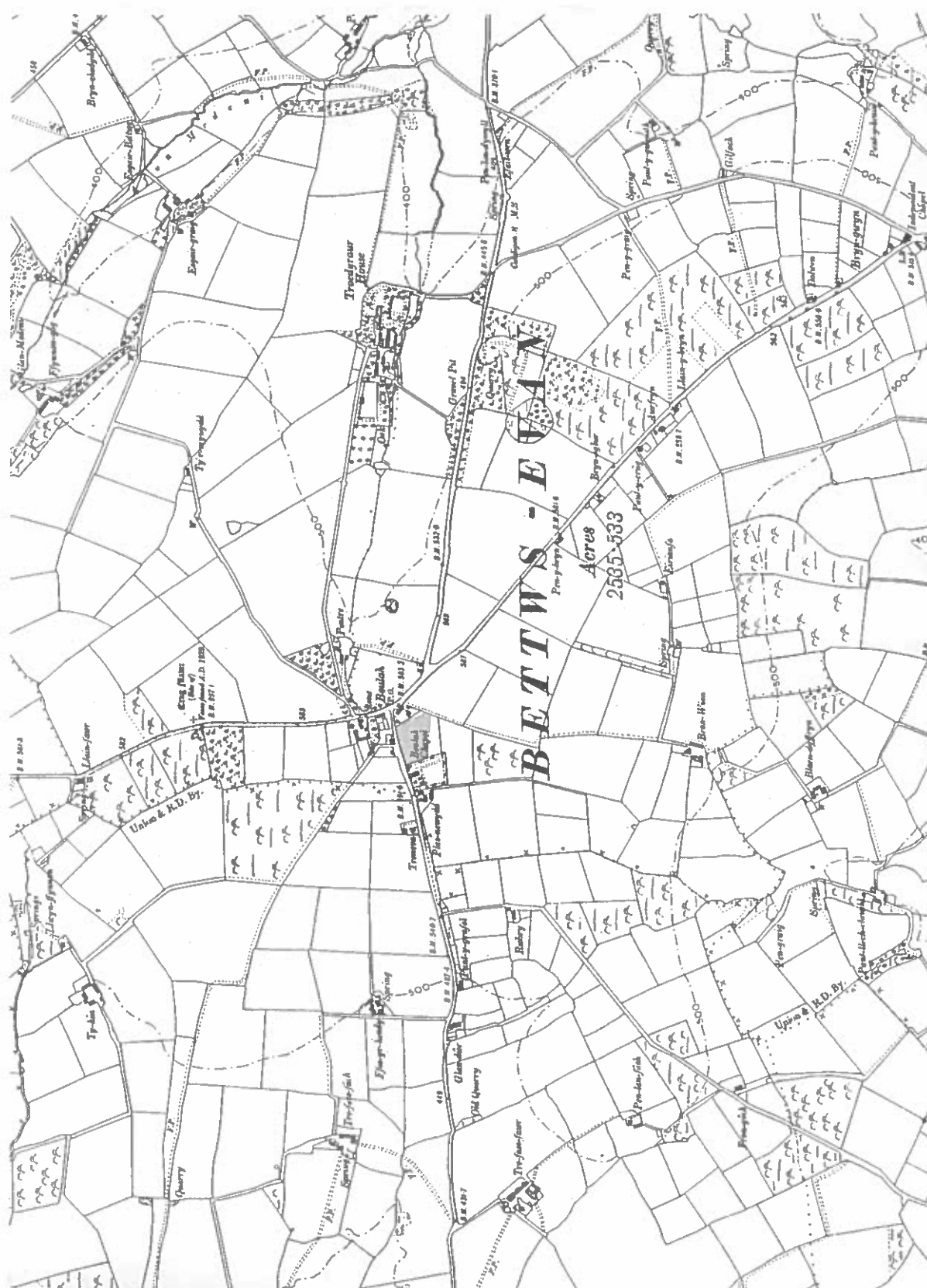


Figure 6 . Part of Ordnance Survey 2nd edition map of 1906 showing area under study.

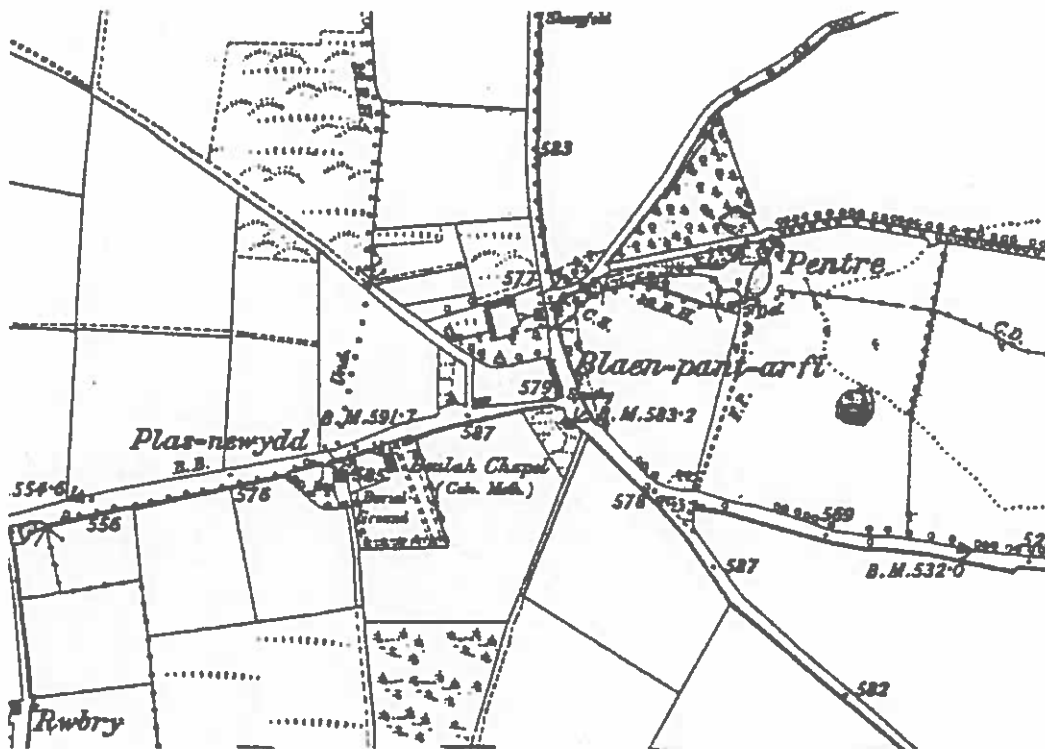


Figure 7 . Enlarged view of Ordnance Survey 1st edition map of 1887.



Figure 8 . Enlarged view of Ordnance Survey 2nd edition map of 1906.



Figure 9. RAF aerial photo of 1946. Area under study outlined along with positions of known archaeological sites in close proximity to proposed development.



APPENDIX II: Photo plates



Plate 1. Beulah Independent Chapel. Looking southwest.



Plate 2. View of land adjacent to Beulah Independent Chapel. Looking southwest towards neighbouring residence.



Plate 3. View of land adjacent to Beulah Independent Chapel. Looking south.



Plate 4. View of land adjacent to Beulah Independent Chapel. Looking northwest.



APPENDIX III: Archive Cover Sheet

- RCAHMW Obliques (2001 and 2002) – 2001/3523-12 and 2002/5094-52.

ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

Land adjacent to Beulah Independent Chapel, Beulah, Ceredigion

ARCHIVE DESTINATION – RCAHMW

Site Name:	Land adjacent to Beulah Independent Chapel, Beulah, Ceredigion
Site Code:	BIC/08/AA
PRN:	
NPRN :	N/A
SAM:	N/A
Other Ref No:	HRSW Report No. 120
NGR:	SN 2890 4620
Site Type:	Field Enclosure
Project Type:	Appraisal
Project Officer:	Richard Scott Jones
Project Dates:	August 2008
Categories Present:	N/A
Location of Original Archive:	RHRSW
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

