

HERITAGE
RECORDING SERVICES **WALES**

Land adjacent to Castell Ddu ringwork, Llanwnnen.

Archaeological Field Evaluation



By

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Land adjacent to, Castell Ddu ringwork, Llanwnnen, Ceredigion.

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Prepared for:

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On behalf of:

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The Pine Workshop,
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Ceredigion

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HERITAGE
RECORDING SERVICES WALES

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Non Technical Summary

The following report is the result of archaeological work undertaken by Heritage Recording Services Wales for Mr Stuart Huckfield, owner of 'The Pinework Workshop', Llanwnnen, Ceredigion. The work was the result of an archaeological evaluation prior to determination of a planning proposal for the construction of two new residential dwellings on land adjacent to the scheduled ancient monument of Castell Ddu ringwork, Llanwnnen, near Lampeter, Ceredigion.

The evaluation was designed to assess the presence or absence of archaeological material within the footprint of the proposed development and evaluate its character, condition and relative significance.

Although two residential dwellings had been proposed, only one evaluation trench was dug in the footprint of the southernmost proposed dwelling, as the results of the evaluation here proved negative, as well as the fact that the ground of the proposed second dwelling had already been heavily disturbed from earlier groundworks.

No features associated with the medieval ringwork, such as a bailey, were exposed within the area of the proposed development. The earliest datable finds recovered from the trench included one small post medieval pottery fragment c. 1890.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The following report is the result of archaeological work undertaken by Heritage Recording Services Wales for Mr Stuart Huckfield, owner of 'The Pinework Workshop', Llanwnnen, Ceredigion. The work was the result of an archaeological evaluation prior to determination of a planning proposal for the construction of two new residential dwellings on land adjacent to the scheduled ancient monument of Castell Ddu ringwork (PRN: 721 / SAM CD 117), Llanwnnen, near Lampeter, Ceredigion.
- 1.2 After being approached by Mr Stuart Huckfield 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 October 2008. This specification was approved and the evaluation work was undertaken on 29th October 2008.
- 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 (*Planning application no: A070578*) Dyfed Archaeological Trust (DAT) have recommended that the results of an intrusive archaeological field evaluation of the proposed development area were 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 approximately 50m northwest of the Scheduled Ancient Monument known as 'Castell Ddu' (NGR: SN 5331 4717). The site lies at approx. 120m O.D on a flat area of land near the south-eastern corner of Llanwnnen crossroads. To the east the land drops down to steeply whereupon meeting the River Grannel. The proposed new dwellings are to be built on an area of land at the rear of the newly constructed Pine Workshop located to the west.

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.

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. Gwynn 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) and is in fact a ringwork and not a mound. 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 ringwork 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. Although evidence of outer ditches appear to have been levelled, there is slight evidence of a ditch on the northwest side. The ringwork has an entrance to the west and a possible building platform in the northern 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 With regards the evaluation, ground work was undertaken by the contractor using a mechanical digger with a 2 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 along the entire 10 meter long trench. Once complete, the exposed ground surface was inspected from archaeological features and dateable finds such as pottery fragments which were recovered. Any archaeology which became evident was then excavated to ascertain its character, form and date and then recorded and left in situ, whilst the removal of the sub soil and subsequent underlying deposits continued until reaching the natural geology.
- 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:
- Photographic record* - Photographs were taken in digital format using a 10 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.
 - 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 5 –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 there were no buildings in the area of the proposed development, but the area was known as 'Tyn Porth', which literally translates as 'Cottage of the Gateway'. This appears to relate to an existing building further north at the point of the Llanwnnen crossroads.

OS First Edition Map of 1887

- 4.3 The OS 1st edition map shows no features within the area of the proposed development.

OS Second Edition Map of 1906

- 4.4 The OS 2nd edition map shows no features within the area of the proposed development.

5 Results of the Field Evaluation (see Figs 3 and 4)

- 5.1 In the following, numbers contained within brackets (), refer to context numbers allocated during the watching brief. Context numbers start at (100). A detailed list of all contexts is given in Appendix III of this report.
- 5.2 The evaluation trench was positioned northwest-southeast within the footprint of the first proposed new dwelling. It measured approx. 10m in length x 2m in width and averaged approx. 0.45m in depth. Once the overburden / top soil (100) had been removed, which averaged a depth of only 0.10m, a mid-brown sub soil was exposed (101). This averaged a depth of approx. 0.30m and was made up of a sandy mid brown garden soil with stone inclusions (10%) with occasional charcoal fragments. Dateable finds from this deposit included one small fragment of glazed stoneware c. 1890. Following inspection of this exposed deposit no archaeological features were evident. Once this deposit was removed a natural sandy gravel deposit became exposed (102). In order to confirm that this deposit was indeed natural and was not possibly re-deposited material, a small cut was made at the southern end of the trench, which removed a further 0.40m depth of gravel. This confirmed that the deposit (102) was indeed a natural gravel deposit. The excavation of the evaluation trench exposed no archaeological features of any significance.
- 5.2 Following the negative results of the evaluation trench and the fact that the ground in the area of the other proposed dwelling had been heavily disturbed it was decided that no further evaluation trench would be

required.

Summary of results

- 5.5 The evaluation trench on land adjacent to Castell Ddu ringwork, for the development of two new residential dwellings, did not expose any significant archaeology. The earliest finds recovered from the top soil was one small fragment of 19th century glazed stoneware.

6 Conclusion

- 6.1 The evaluation trench on land adjacent to Castell Ddu ringwork, for the development of two new residential dwellings, did not expose any significant archaeological deposits or features. The earliest find recovered from the top soil was one small fragment of 19th century glazed stoneware.
- 6.2 The readily available cartographic sources of the area show that there doesn't appear to have been any building on the land adjacent to the Castell Ddu ringwork since at least 1840. The results from the evaluation trench also seem to confirm this. This may imply that there has been no building on the land at all prior to this date, which may further imply that the area was used solely as meadow land, at least following the abandonment of the 12th century ringwork and any potentially associated habitation external to the ringwork. However it may also imply that any potential features associated with the ringwork that may have been present have been ploughed out or else the land levelled at some time in the last hundred years or so.
- 6.3 Although no features associated with the medieval ringwork and potential bailey were exposed within the evaluation trench, this doesn't mean that no such features exist in the immediate area. As such, it is recommended that planning permission be granted only with a condition for an archaeological watching brief during any groundwork for the proposed development.

7 Acknowledgements

Thanks to; Mr Huckfield , the owner of the Pine Workshop, Llanwnnen, for his patience during the ground work and archaeological recording work.

8 Bibliography

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HOGG, A.H.A. + KING, D.J.C., 1963, 'Early castles in Wales and the Marches: a preliminary list' *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol112 p77-124

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KING, D.J.C. + ALCOCK, L., 1969, 'Ringworks in England and Wales' *Chateau Gaillard* Vol3 p90-127

KING, D.J.C, 1956, *Ceredigion* Vol3 p64-5

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 position of evaluation.

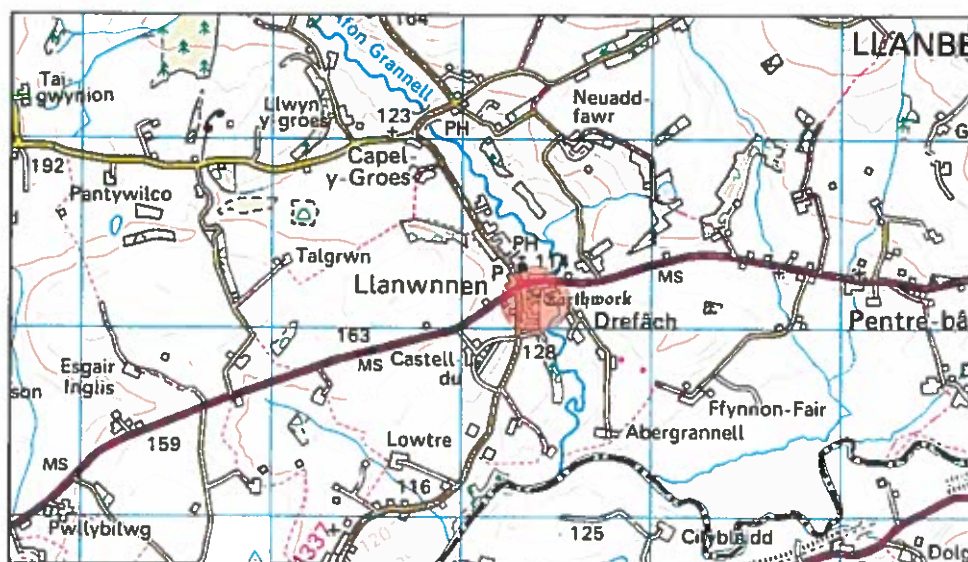


Figure 2. Location map showing position of evaluation trench.

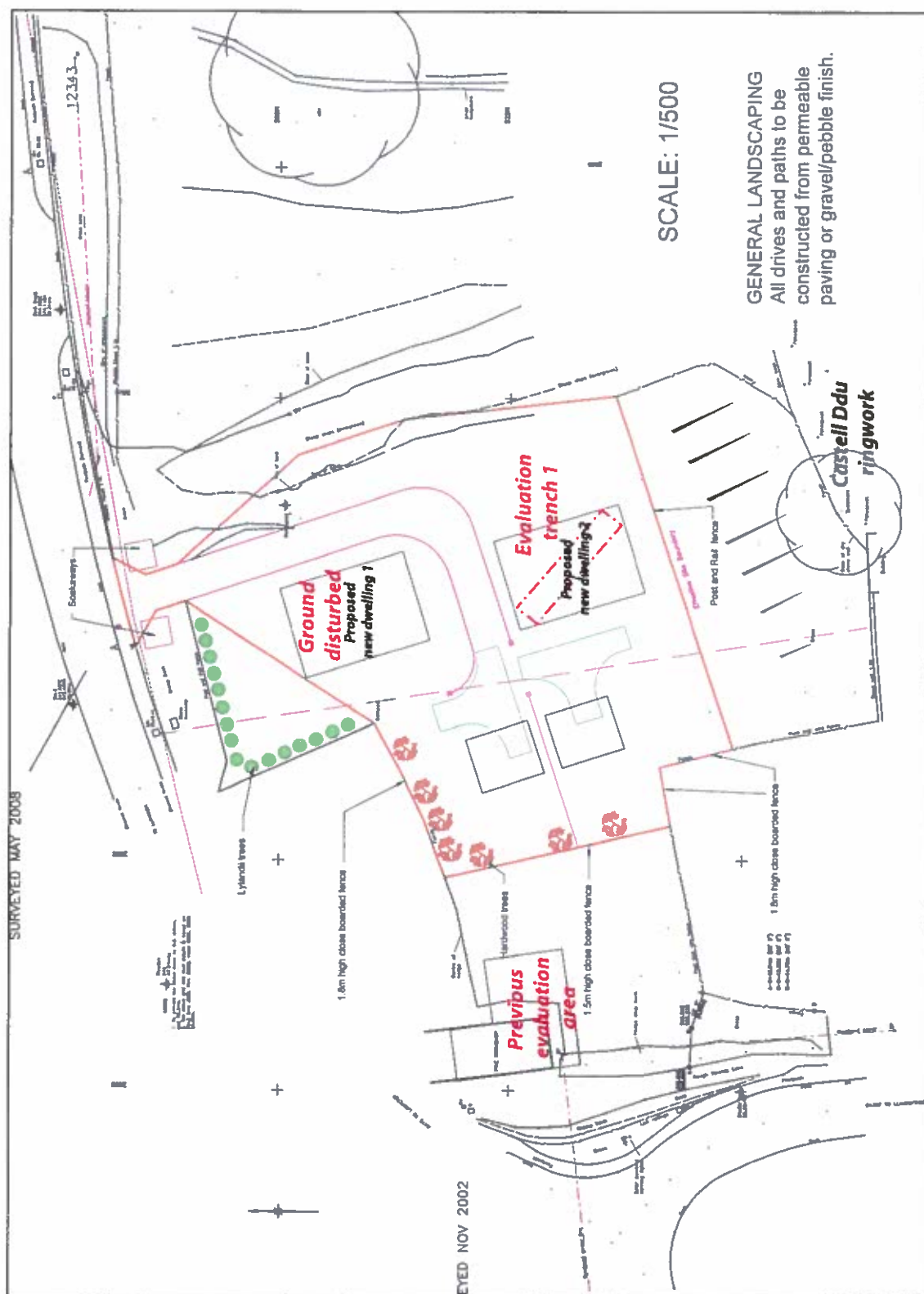


Figure 3. Land adjacent to Castell Ddu ringwork, Llanwnnen, Ceredigion. Site plan showing position of evaluation trench.

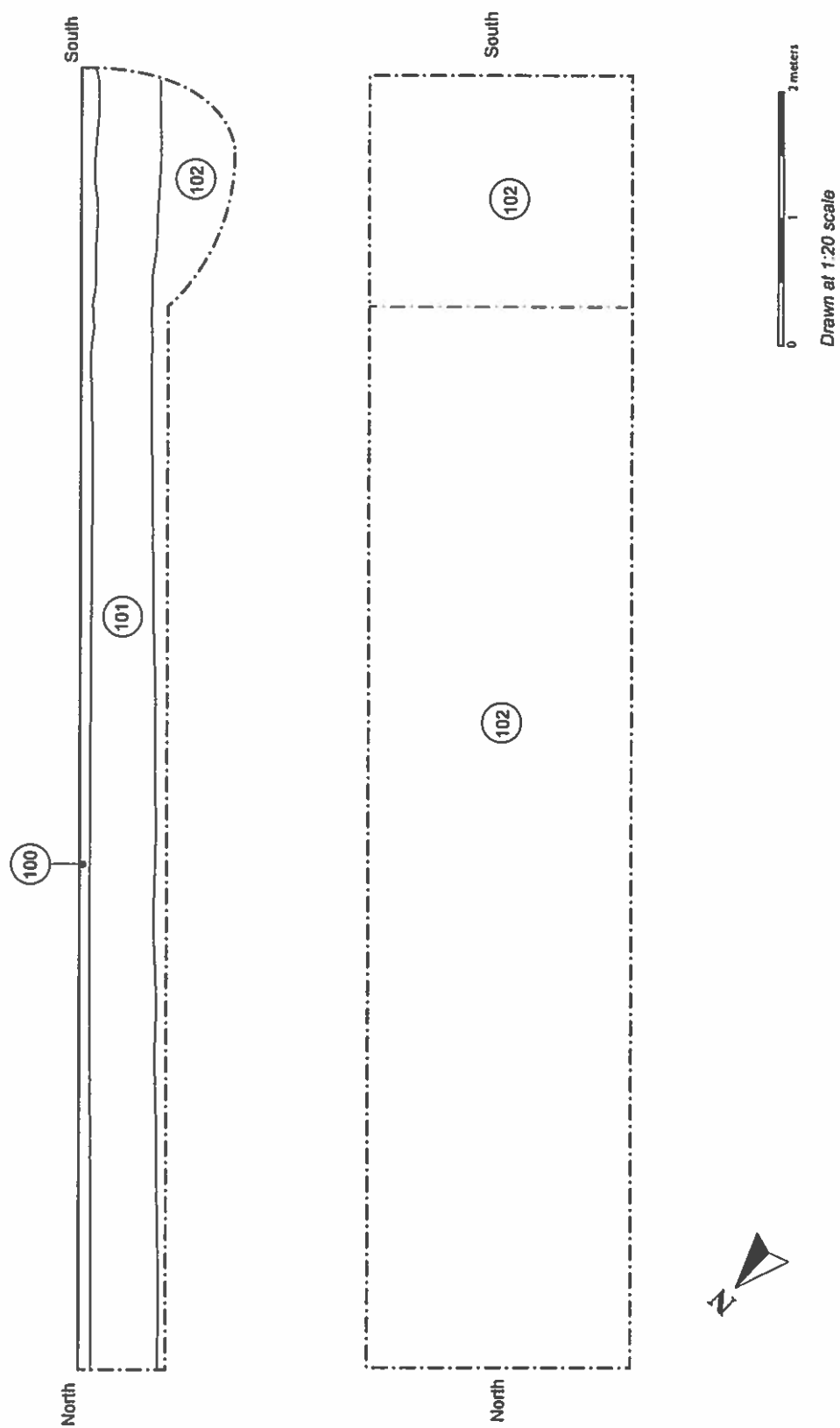


Figure 4. Results of evaluation trench. Ground plan and southwest facing section.

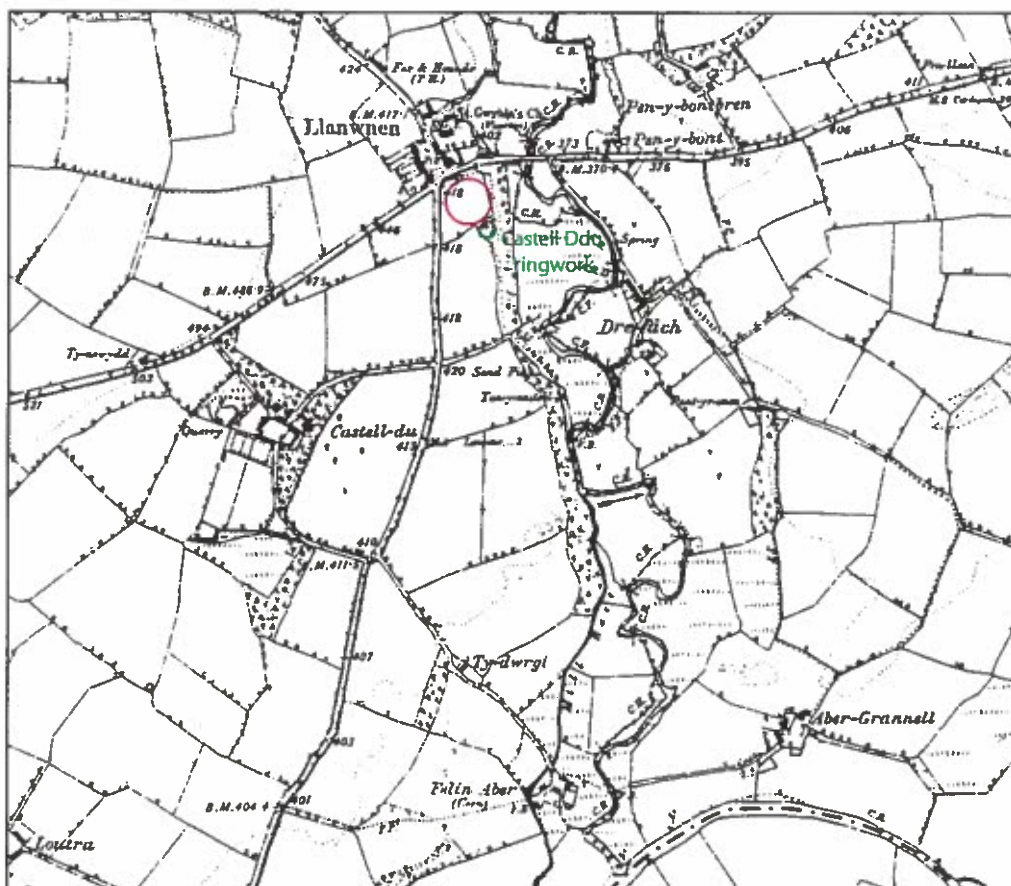


Figure 5. OS First Edition Map of 1887 (site location highlighted in red. Castell Ddu ringwork in green).

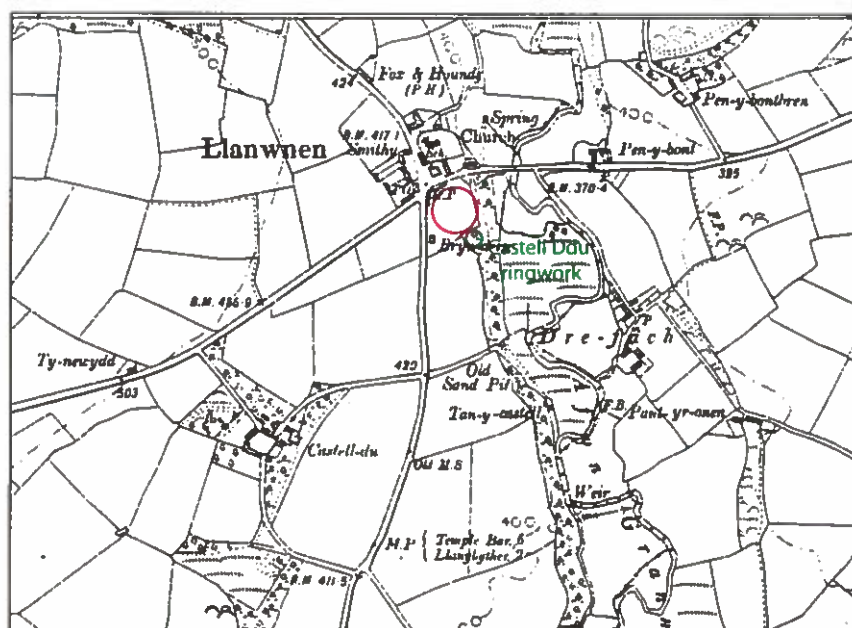


Figure 5. OS Second Edition Map of 1906 (site location highlighted in red. Castell Ddu ringwork in green).

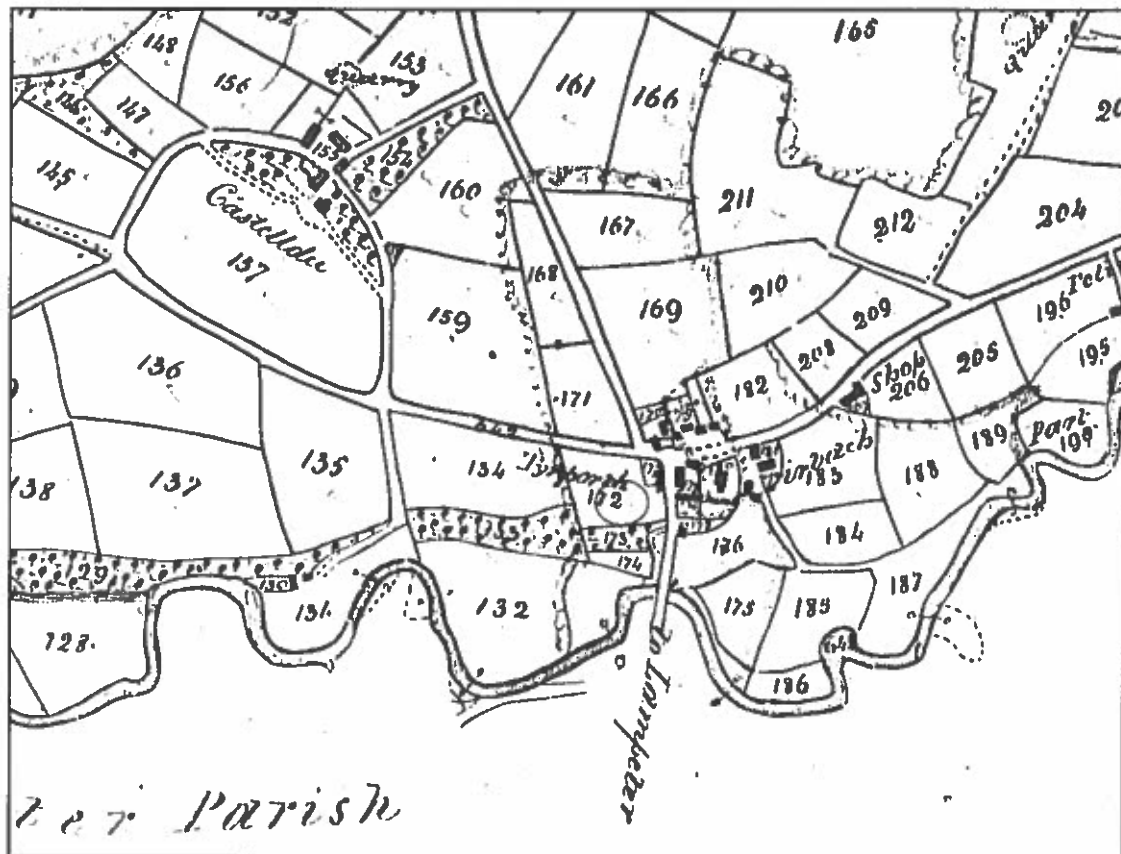


Figure 7. Tithe Map of 1840 (site location highlighted).



APPENDIX II: **Photo plates**



Plate 1. Working shot during initial removal of top soil. Looking southwest.



Plate 2. Evaluation trench. Looking northwest



Plate 3. Evaluation trench. Looking southeast toward ringwork.



Plate 4. Evaluation trench. Looking southeast toward ringwork.



Plate 5. Typical section southwest facing within evaluation trench.



APPENDIX III: Context Register

SUMMARY OF CONTEXTS

Land adjacent to Castell Ddu ringwork, Llanwnnen

CONTEXTS

Evaluation trench

- 100. Top soil and overburden.
- 101. Mid brown sub soil with stone inclusions (10%)
- 102. Natural sand and gravels



APPENDIX IV: **Archive Cover Sheet**

ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

Land adjacent to Castell Ddu ringwork, Llanwnnen

ARCHIVE DESTINATION – DAT, Llandeilo

Site Name:	Land adjacent to Castell Ddu ringwork, Llanwnnen
Site Code:	PWL/08/FE
PRN:	
NPRN :	N/A
SAM:	N/A
Other Ref No:	HRSW Report No. 121
NGR:	SN 5331 4717
Site Type:	Medieval ringwork
Project Type:	Field Evaluation
Project Officer:	Richard Scott Jones
Project Dates:	Oct 29th 2008
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

