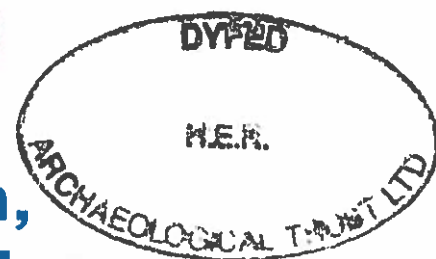


**HERITAGE**  
RECORDING SERVICES **WALES**



# **Ty Barcud Coch, Cwmifor, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire**

Archaeological Field Evaluation



*By*

Richard Scott Jones (BA Hons, MA, MIFA)

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

## **Ty Barcud Coch, Cwmifor, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire**

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

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

*On behalf of:*  
Glen Thomas  
Loyn & Co Architects  
21 Victoria Road  
Penarth  
Vale of Glamorgan

*Date:*  
April 2009

*HRSW Report No:*  
122

**HERITAGE**  
RECORDING SERVICES WALES

Pen-y-fan, 11 Forest Lane, Llanybi, Ceredigion SA48 8LZ  
Tel: 01570 493312 / 07765 584170 Email: [hrrswales@tiscali.co.uk](mailto: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 03
4. CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES	Page 03
5. RESULTS OF FIELD EVALUATION	Page 04
6. CONCLUSIONS	Page 04
7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	Page 05
8. BIBLIOGRAPHY	Page 06

#### APPENDIX I: Figures & Illustrations

#### APPENDIX II: Photo plates

#### APPENDIX III: Contexts Register

#### APPENDIX IV: 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 Lloyn & Co Architects to use and reproduce the material contained within.*

## **i) List of Illustrations**

### **Figures**

Fig 01: Location map.

Fig 02: Location map b

Fig 03: Existing site plan

Fig 04: Proposed development plan

Fig 05: Section drawing

Fig 06: Portion of OS 1st edition map of 1891

### **Plates**

Plate 01-04: Evaluation trench

## Non Technical Summary

*The following report is the result of archaeological work undertaken by Heritage Recording Services Wales for Loyn and Co Architects on behalf of Mr and Mrs A Thomas. The work was the result of an archaeological evaluation following outline planning permission having been granted for the construction of a new dwelling on land in the village of Cwmifor, near Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire.*

*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.*

*One evaluation trench measuring 30m x 2m was dug in the footprint of the proposed dwelling, where the continued route of a Roman road was anticipated.*

*No features or deposits associated with a Roman road were exposed within the evaluation trench. The trench bottomed out onto natural shale at a depth of approximately 0.50m. The earliest datable finds recovered from the sub soil of the trench included one small pottery fragment of post medieval slipware c. 18<sup>th</sup> century.*

### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 The following report is the result of archaeological work undertaken by Heritage Recording Services Wales for Loyn and Co Architects on behalf of Mr and Mrs A Thomas. The work was the result of an archaeological evaluation following outline planning permission having been granted for the construction of a new dwelling on land in Cwmifor, near Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire (NGR: SN 6577 2515) (Planning application no: E/18017).
- 1.2 After being approached by Loyn & Co Architects 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 April 2009. This specification was approved and the evaluation work was undertaken on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2009.
- 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 Dyfed Archaeological Trust (DAT) recommended that the results of an intrusive archaeological field evaluation of the proposed development area is required post 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 in the Tywi Valley, approximately 3km southwest of the town of Llandeilo and approximately 500m southwest of the village of Cwmifor (NGR: SN 6577 2515), alongside the A40 main road that runs parallel with the Tywi river. The site lies at approx. 50m O.D on a flat raised area of land which is presently a field. To the southeast the land drops down to gradually whereupon it meets the Tywi River.

#### Geology

- 1.6 The geology of the area is a sedimentary rock of an Undivided Ordovician series. Local geology indicates an area of sandy gravels, clays and shale.

## Historical & Archaeological Background

- 1.7 The proposed development site lies on the potential line of the Carmarthen to Llandovery roman road.
- 1.8 In order to put the proposed development area into historic context, a brief history of the area has been included. This includes extracts from Samuel Lewis's 1833 Topographical Dictionary of Wales and extracts from the Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales, to which Cwmifor is part of the Tywi Valley Registered Historic Landscape.
- 1.9 The village of Cwmifor is within the parish of Llandeilo Fawr described by Samuel Lewis in his Topographical Dictionary of Wales dated 1833 as such:

" LLANDILO-VAWR (LLAN-DEILO-FAWR), a large parish, comprising the market-town and liberties of Llandilo-Vawr, and the hamlets of Maenor-Deilo-Vabon, Taliaris, and Tir Esgob with Rhôs-maen, in the Lower division of the hundred of Perveth; the hamlets of Cwm-Garw-Llwyd, Maenor-Deilo Upper, Maenor-Deilo Lower, and TâchLleuan with Rhiwlas, in the Lower division of the hundred of Cayo; and the hamlets of Bryn-y-Beirdd, Glyn-Amman, Pentrêv Cwn, Trêcastell, and Trêgib, in the hundred of Iscennen; union of LlandiloVawr, of which it is the head, county of Carmarthen, South Wales; the whole containing 5471 inhabitants, of whom 1313 are in the town and liberties of Llandilo-Vawr, 15 miles (E. by N.) from Carmarthen, and 202 (W. by N.) from London. The name of this place is derived from the dedication of its church to St. Teilo, an eminent British saint, who flourished towards the close of the fifth, or early in the sixth, century. After his death, his remains, which were vehemently contended for by this parish, in which he died; by the inhabitants of Pennalum, where his ancestors had been buried; and by those of Llandaf, where he had been bishop; were finally interred at the last-named place. The town, though now one of the most considerable in South Wales, derived all its former importance from the neighbouring castle of Dinas Vawr, or Dynevor, originally erected as a royal palace, by Roderic the Great, sovereign of all Wales. On the death of Roderic, in 877, his dominions were divided into three separate sovereignties, and the seat of government for that of South Wales was removed, for the sake of greater security, from Carmarthen to Dynevor, which was strongly fortified both by nature and art. This castle, in which, in the tenth century, a copy was deposited of the celebrated code of laws compiled and enacted by Hywel Dda, continued to be the residence of the sovereigns of South Wales, till their government was overthrown by the aggression of the Normans after their conquest of England.

In 1142, Cadell, son of Gruffydd ab Rhys, a scion of the ancient royal family of South Wales, laid siege to the castle, then held by the Norman usurpers of the circumjacent soil, and took and retained it. About the year 1150, his brothers Rhys and Meredydd, returning to their own territories, after a successful predatory incursion into the lands of the English vassals, rebuilt this palace of their ancestors, and rendered it stronger than it had ever before been. Rhys having made peace with Henry II., that monarch ceded to him the district of Cantrêv-Mawr, in which Dynevor Castle was situated; and several other lordships at that time belonging to the English. These possessions not being given up according to treaty, Rhys again had recourse to arms, and soon obtained them by force, recovering also the other ancient demesnes of his family; and after continuing for some time to spread devastation through the parts inhabited by the English vassals in the counties of Cardigan and Pembroke, he returned to Dynevor, laden with spoil and military honour. From this time until the death of Henry II., Rhys remained in quiet occupation of Dynevor Castle, where, excepting in the case of a formidable attack which he made on the Marches, after the accession of Richard I., he appears to have lived entirely in peace and retirement.

In the year 1204, Rhys ab Gruffydd, grandson of the above-mentioned Rhys, made a

successful attempt to recover this fortress, which had been seized by his uncle Maelgwyn; but the latter, with the assistance of his brother, Rhys Vychan, regained it, and likewise took nearly all the other possessions of Rhys ab Gruffydd and his brother Owain. Under these circumstances the latter chieftains had recourse for assistance to the English monarch, John, who ordered Lord Foulke to demand of Rhys Vychan the castle of Llandovery, with its dependent territory, for the support of the brothers Rhys and Owain ab Gruffydd. The application being refused, the English commander, accompanied by these chieftains and all the forces they could collect in the vicinity, advanced towards Dynevor, and, meeting on his march the forces of Rhys Vychan, defeated that chieftain in battle with considerable loss: Rhys Vychan was compelled to retreat upon Dynevor, the garrison of which he reinforced; and after burning to the ground the town of Llandilo-Vawr, he retired into the most inaccessible parts of the neighbouring country. Foulke and the native chieftains immediately invested the castle, and so pressed the siege, that the garrison surrendered on the following day, on condition of being allowed to depart with their arms. Soon after, Llewelyn ab Iorwerth, Prince of North Wales, in alliance with several of the chieftains of South Wales, dispossessed many of the English vassals of the usurped territories in this part of the principality, and, in the partition of them, assigned Dynevor Castle, with nearly the whole of CantrêvMawr, to Rhys Vychan, who afterwards died at Llandilo-Vawr, in 1234, and was buried at St. David's. His son Rhys, having been deprived of his territories, in 1254, by Llewelyn ab Gruffydd, Prince of North Wales, who divided them among other chieftains of South Wales, applied for assistance to Henry III.; and that monarch granted him a powerful force, to aid him in the recovery of such of them as were held by his brother Meredydd. With the auxiliaries thus obtained, Rhys came by sea to Carmarthen, and proceeded thence to Dynevor Castle, which he immediately invested; but Meredydd ab Owain and Meredydd ab Rhys, reinforced by a large body of troops sent by Llewelyn, gave the English battle, and, after one of the most sanguinary conflicts which ever took place in this part of the principality, defeated them with the loss of more than 2000 of their number.

Soon after the accession of Edward I. to the throne, Payen de Chaworth, who commanded that monarch's forces in South Wales, attacked and laid waste the territories of several of the native chieftains, who, despairing of assistance from Llewelyn, Prince of North Wales, made their submission to the English sovereign, and delivered the castle of Dynevor into the hands of his lieutenant. The king, about the time of his final invasion of North Wales, also sent an army into South Wales, under the command of the Earl of Gloucester and Sir Edward Mortimer, who, near Llandilo-Vawr, encountered and totally defeated the Welsh army which had been raised to oppose them, but not without sustaining a considerable loss on their own side, five knights, and William de Valence, cousin of Edward I., being slain: this victory was one of those which completed the final conquest of Wales. In 1287, Rhys ab Meredydd, who had excited an extensive insurrection in South Wales, suddenly besieged and took the castle of Dynevor; but it was afterwards retaken by the English under the Earl of Cornwall, and subsequently demolished. In the reign of Henry VII., it formed part of the family estates of the celebrated Sir Rhys ab Thomas; but on the unjust attainder of his grandson, Rhys ab Gruffydd, in the time of Henry VIII., it reverted to the king. In the following reign, Mary restored a small portion of the estates to his son Gruffydd ab Rhys; and Charles I. restored to Sir Henry Rice all the family estates that then remained in the possession of the crown. George Rice, who died in 1782, was created Baron Dynevor, with remainder to his daughter, whose son, the present Lord Dynevor, is proprietor of the ancient castle and its dependent territory.

The town is beautifully situated on an eminence rising from the right bank of the river Towy, over which is a bridge. It consists of several irregularly formed streets, containing few houses of ancient date which at all agree, either in size or style, with the important rank the place now holds in the county. Of late years, however, considerable improvements have taken place, and greater regularity and a more prepossessing appearance characterize the buildings that have been erected: a new road has been constructed through the churchyard, instead of the old one,

which was so steep in this part of its course as to be almost impassable for carriages; and the approach from the town to the bridge has been materially improved. More recently, the bridge itself, a narrow stone structure built by Edwards, so celebrated in Wales for his bridge-building, has been taken down, and replaced by a very handsome structure of one arch, erected under the superintendence of Mr. Haycock, of Shrewsbury. The inhabitants are scantily supplied with water from a pure spring in the churchyard, at which St. Teilo used to baptize Christian converts in ancient times. The streets are neither paved nor lighted. The surrounding scenery is richly diversified with hill and dale, and embellished with flourishing plantations: towards the east the view embraces the lofty Carmarthenshire Beacons, and to the west the wooded heights inclosing the beautiful Vale of Towy, along which the river winds its majestic course. In the vicinity are numerous elegant seats and pleasing villas, situated in grounds that add greatly to the interesting character of the country, and the principal of which are, the modern castle of Lord Dynevor, noticed in the article Llandeveyson; Golden Grove, the seat of Earl Cawdor; Trêgib, an old fortified mansion, now modernised; Maenorvabon; Taliaris; with the deserted residences of Derwydd and Tŷ Gwyn Mawr.

The town stands on the roads from Brecknock to Carmarthen and from Swansea to Lampeter. Here, also, is the northern terminus of the Llanelli railway, which has its southern terminus at the Llanelli docks, on the Burry estuary. The market, which is well supplied with corn, is on Saturday; and fairs occur on February 20th, Palm-Monday, May 12th, June 21st, August 23rd, November 12th, and the Monday after Christmas-day. The quatersessions for the county are held here alternately with Carmarthen, and the election of the knights of the shire takes place in the town: the powers of the county debt-court of Llandilo-Vawr, established in 1847, extend over the registration-district of LlandiloVawr. The town-hall is a respectable building of modern erection, containing the courts for the sessions, and a grand-jury room, with a commodious area underneath, in which the corn market is held.

The parish is upwards of thirteen miles in length, from north to south, and about eight in breadth, from east to west; and is bounded on the north-west by that of Llandeveyson, on the north by the parishes of Tälley and Llansadwrn, on the east and north-east by that of Llangadock, and on the south and southwest by those of Bettws, Llandebie, and LlanvihangelAberbythic. It comprises an area of 26,000 acres, of which about 5200 are arable, 13,000 pasture, 1300 woodland, consisting of oak, ash, and alder, interspersed with many fine beech and fir trees, 5500 mountain and uninclosed land, and the remainder roads, waste, &c. The soil comprehends the several varieties of calcareous earth, near the limestone rocks; red loam, from the old red-sandstone formation; a considerable portion of clay to the north-west of the town; and a deep, rich, alluvial earth, occasionally alternated with patches of gravel, in the meadows bordering on the river Towy. There are quarries of limestone, flagstone, and mica-slate, which last is used for tiles: small streams and water corn-mills are numerous.

The Living is a vicarage, endowed with one-third of all the tithes, and rated in the king's books at £16; patron, the Bishop of St. David's; impropiator of the remainder of the tithes, D. J. Parker, Esq. The tithes have been commuted for a rent-charge of £1536. 12. The church, dedicated to St. Teilo, and situated nearly in the centre of the town, was rebuilt in 1848-9, on the same site, from the designs of Mr. Scott. In the hamlet of Taliaris is a neat chapel, enlarged by the late Lord Robert Seymour. A grant for the erection of a new church at Cwmamman, in the parish, was made in 1841, by Her Majesty's Commissioners; the building is in the early English style, with a tower, and contains 545 sittings, 500 being free: it is dedicated to Christ. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the gift of the Bishop of St. David's; net income, £150. The annexed district includes part of the parish of Bettws. Formerly there was a chapel of ease to the mother church, called Capel yr Ywen; also one at Capel Bâch, another at Llanbrydau, and a fourth at Llanduvaen. This last, to which is attached a curious open baptistery, of quadrangular form, has, by the munificence of Lord Dynevor, been again annexed to the Church; the others are in ruins, or even more effectually destroyed. Within the limits of the



parish are not less than seventeen places of worship for dissenters. Several schools are held, in connexion with the Church, comprising schools under the immediate patronage of the vicar, a school supported by Lord Dynevor; one at Llwyndyrys, supported by Mrs. Du Boisson, of Glyn-hir, in the parish of Llandebie; endowed schools at Taliaris, and a school at Pen-y-Bank. An annual endowment of £4. 18. 6. is available for the education of children, exclusively of the endowment at Taliaris; and the parish contains as many as fifteen Sunday schools, two of them in connexion with the Established Church, five belonging to the Independents, three to the Calvinistic Methodists, two each to the Wesleyans and the Baptists, and one to the Particular Baptists. There is also a small endowment for the relief of the poor. The poor-law union of which this town is the head, was formed Dec. 14th, 1836, and comprises the following twelve parishes and townships; namely, Bettws, Brechva, Llandebie, Llandeveyson, LlandiloVawr, Llanegwad, Llangathen, Llansawel, Llanvihangel-Aberbythic, Llanvihangel-Kilvargen, Llanvynydd, and Tälley. It is under the superintendence of twenty-one guardians, and contains a population of 17,128. The union-house is a neat building in the Elizabethan style, with a handsome front of cut stone.

In the vicinity of the town are some interesting ruins. The remains of *Dynevor Castle* are situated at the south-western extremity of Newton Park, which is within the parish of Llandeveyson, and contains also the modern mansion of Lord Dynevor. They comprise a quadrangular area, about thirty-five yards in length and thirty in breadth, which was anciently inclosed with lofty walls of massive thickness, and appears to have been defended at the angles by towers, two of which are still standing, namely, a square one on the north, and a large round tower, overhanging a tremendous precipice on the southeast, overlooking the river Towy. About four miles from the town, and in that part of the parish situated in the hundred of Iscennen, are the remains of *Carreg Cennen Castle*, occupying the summit of an isolated rock nearly one hundred yards in perpendicular height, at the base of which flows the small river Cennen, whence it derives its name. The erection of this fortress is by some writers ascribed to a chieftain named Goronw, and by others to Urien Reged, the remote ancestor of the house of Dynevor, whose ancient territories extended from the river Neath, in Glamorganshire, to the river Towy in the present county of Carmarthen. The simplicity of its architecture certainly bespeaks its early origin; and there can be little doubt of its being of ancient British construction, although by some it is supposed to possess no claim to an origin more remote than the reign of Henry I. It was probably altered by the Normans. Recent discoveries have only contributed to involve the question in still greater obscurity: the coins of the Roman emperors which are continually discovered, lead to an opinion of its occupation by the Romans; and a stone hatchet has been found in the immediate vicinity, which is evidently of a date anterior to the use of metal in Britain for the construction of military weapons. The only historical event on record concerning it, is its recapture by Rhÿs Vychan, about the year 1248, or 1254, from the English, to whom it had been given by his mother, from motives of personal dislike, in order to prevent its falling into his hands. This fortress, from its elevated situation and the loftiness of its buildings, forms an interesting object from many points of view, especially from the direction of Llandebie, from which village is the finest approach to it. The present remains occupy a quadrilateral area, nearly thirty-five yards in length and twentyfive in breadth, and consist chiefly of two square towers on the northern side, which defend the entrance; a large round tower placed at the northwestern angle; and an octangular tower at the northeastern, where is the principal entrance. On the eastern side of the quadrangle are the remains of several of the principal apartments, and on the southern side is a range of building, consisting of smaller apartments, which were probably the offices of the castle. There appears to have been another entrance, by a covered way leading along the margin of the precipice on which the castle is built, to a gate on the southern side; and a narrow arched passage on the northern side conducts by an easy descent to a gallery excavated in the rock, and apparently designed for supplying the castle with water. This gallery is about fifty yards in length, varying in breadth from three to twelve feet, and in height from four to ten, and is lighted at intervals by apertures cut outward through the rock: at the lower extremity is a basin, about

four feet from the level of the floor, capable of holding not more than two gallons, and into which the water trickles from the roof. From the summit of the rock on which the castle stands, is an extensive and almost boundless prospect over the wide valleys intervening between the lofty mountains by which the site is surrounded.

Near the source of the small river Cennen are numerous excavations, the interior surface of which is covered with fine grass: these are supposed to have been habitations of the aboriginal Britons. About five miles to the south of the town, is *Fynnon Craig Cefyl*, a chalybeate spring; and in various parts of the parish are several others of inferior note; but the waters of none of them are now used for medicinal purposes. On the opposite side of the river Towy is a remarkable ebbing and flowing well; and at a short distance to the south of Carreg Cennen Castle, at the place called *Llanduvaen*, on the borders of the Black Mountains, is a square stone tank, anciently a baptistery for the use of the early Christian Church at the little chapel of Llanduvaen. In the south-eastern part of the parish is the source of the river Llwchwr, or Loughor, called *Llygad y Llwchwr*; the water issues from a limestone rock, in a stream of sufficient force to give motion to the machinery of some extensive iron-works at a small distance, and lower down on its course in the demesne of Glyn-hîr, the river falls over a ledge of rocks eighteen feet in perpendicular height, forming a fine cascade.—See Llandeveyson, Taliaris, Llanvihangel-Aberbythic, &c." (Samuel Lewis 1833.)

- 1.8 The small village of Cwmifor falls within the Historic Character Area of Cwmifor and Manor Deilo within the Registered Historic Landscape of the Tywi Valley:

"This is a large character area lying above the interface between the alluvium and the solid geology of the north side of the Tywi, and part of the main historic route corridor into West Wales. The Roman road from Carmarthen to Llandovery followed this interface. It forms the southeast edge of the character area and its course has been more-or-less followed by the modern A40(T). The Roman road may perpetuate the line of an earlier routeway, or at least activity, as testified by stray finds of Bronze Age date found on or close to the road, including a gold hoard. The line of the Roman road was, however, abandoned during the Medieval and earlier Post-Medieval periods, until it was turnpiked in the 18th century. During the intervening period a routeway from Llandeilo to Llandovery, later with a toll-house, was established along the higher ground through the centre of this character area (Ludlow 1999, 24), when it lay within the southern half of the commote, and later hundred, of Maenordeilo (Rees 1932) which was held of the independent Welsh lordship of Cantref Mawr until the establishment of the county of Carmarthen in 1284. The relative homogeneity of the present landscape may represent a historical unity of land-use. The landscape had been enclosed, in the present pattern of irregular fields, by the time the tithe surveys were conducted in the second quarter of the 19th century, but the process may have been undertaken at an earlier date, possibly during the late Medieval period. Settlement on the floodplain itself has always been minimal but does occur on raised 'islands' within the alluvium, mainly in the form of isolated farms of which Glanrhyd-isaf may have early origins. The remains of an adjacent field system may be Medieval. On the higher ground, Post-Medieval building platforms, trackways etc. attest to former settlement around Banc-y-gwyn. The character area lay within the large parish of Llandeilo Fawr and has a strong ecclesiastical signature, perhaps representing the core of the pre-Conquest Patria of St Teilo. The many chapels-of-ease to the parish may have early origins and include several within this character area. One of these chapels was still visible in the early 19th-century when it became the site of a dwelling, Capel Isa, built on land originally belonging to the Abermarlais estate in Area 209 (Jones 1987, 21). The lower valley side is occupied by two, formerly three, more 'polite' houses and gardens, with a degree of emparking which has characterised the landscape. The most important is Glanbrydan, established during the later 18th century but extended, and laid out as a parkland landscape, between 1838 and 1887 with the construction of a lodge (Ludlow 1999, 26). Down Farm, is

little more than a large farm whilst Dirleton near Llangadog Bridge has now largely been lost. The pattern of small farms within and around the area had been established by the early 19th-century, but there have been landscape changes including the loss of further farmsteads and the coalescing of fields near the valley floor, and the diversion of the turnpike road in the 1820s with the subsequent development of a village, with a church, at Cwm-Ifor (see Area 196). The nucleation at Manordeilo, too, is a creation of the 19th century and is not even named on the Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors' Drawings, Sheet 189, of 1812. Its greatest expansion has in fact occurred since 1964 (Ordnance Survey, 1:10000), and is still going on with new dwellings under construction at the northeast end.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

The Cwm-Ifor - Manordeilo character area occupies an area of rolling hills on the north side of the Tywi valley. From the valley floor at approximately 40 m the hills rise to a maximum of 160 m, though generally they lie between 50 m and 90 m. This is essentially a landscape of small irregular fields and dispersed farms. Land-use is almost entirely of improved pasture. Fields are divided by earth banks and hedges. Hedges are generally in good condition and well maintained, but there is some dereliction on low ridges north of Cwm-Ifor, close to Abermarlais (Area 209) at the eastern end of the area and on high ground to the north. Distinctive hedgerow trees are common, particularly in the areas of derelict hedges north of Cwm-Ifor. There are numerous copses and woodland stands, some possibly ancient, particularly on east and north-facing slopes of the Afon Dulais. The parkland at Glanbrydan and to a limited extent the old park of Dirleton merge and influence the surrounding agricultural landscape. The old established settlement pattern of dispersed farms consists mainly of stone-built houses of the 18th- and 19th-century. Although the date range of these surviving buildings is limited, a considerable economic and social range is present from gentry houses such as Glanbrydan House with its lodges and associated home farm, down to small dwellings in the vernacular tradition. Superimposed over the pattern of dispersed farms is a more recent linear and nucleated settlement pattern. Buildings of this pattern mostly date to the 20th century and tend to be concentrated along the A40 road, though the 19th century hamlet at Cwm-Ifor has been transformed into a small nucleated settlement by modern housing development.

Recorded archaeology mainly relates to the settlement already discussed, but includes an unknown cropmark, a possible round barrow and standing stone, as well as the gold hoard and stray finds. There are at least three Medieval chapel sites, a field system and a possible well, and Post-Medieval building platforms, leats, trackways and bridges around Banc-y-gwyn. The site of Dirleton House and park still contains landscape features.

Distinctive buildings include the Grade II listed Capel Isa, built in 1812-13 by Thomas Bedford of Llandeilo as a large, two-storeyed building, originally square in plan but extended west by one bay in the 19th century and now with a three-bayed southern facade. There is an associated, Grade II listed stable-range. The present Glanbrydan House and lodges are not listed, but the 'tower house' (former coach-house) is Grade II listed, probably built in 1885 to designs by S W Williams of Rhayader. Larger farms with concomitant larger farmhouses often in the Georgian tradition tend to be located on the lower slopes closer to the Tywi valley. These larger farms usually have a large assemblage of stone outbuildings in a formal arrangement. However the most common type of farm is a simple two-storey, three bay house in the vernacular tradition with a small group of outbuildings, sometimes compacted into a single range. Most farms have large, modern agricultural outbuildings associated with them. There are a number of early 19th-century cottages. St Paul's Church, Cwm-Ifor, is late 19th-century and on a new site but the chapel is from 1836. Further nonconformist chapels lie at Manordeilo and Hermon. An early 19th-century turnpike trust milestone on the A40(T) is Grade II listed, and an earlier toll-house lies on the old mail road." (from the *Registered*

*Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales).*

## 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 30 meter long trench in increments. 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:
- i) *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.
  - 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 6)

- 4.1 As part of a preliminary assessment, a rapid investigation of the early Ordnance Survey first edition map dated 1891 was undertaken. This showed that the area proposed for development was an open field at this time, whilst the village of Cwmifor was known as Caled-fwlch.

## 5 Results of the Field Evaluation (see Figs 5)

- 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 northeast-southwest within the footprint of the proposed new dwelling. It measured approx. 30m in length x 2m in width and averaged approx. 0.55m in depth. Once the top soil (100) had been removed, which averaged a depth of only 0.05m, a fine mid-brown silty sub soil was exposed (101). This averaged a depth of approx. 0.10m and was made up of a sandy silty mid brown soil with stone inclusions (10%) with occasional charcoal fragments (2%). Dateable finds from this deposit included one small fragment of 18<sup>th</sup> century slipware. Following inspection of this exposed deposit no archaeological features were evident. Once this deposit was removed a mid brown silty sandy clay deposit became exposed (102). Two fragments of 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery were recovered from this layer. Continued removal of this layer to depth of approximately 0.40m exposed a thin layer of natural grey/pale yellow clay (103). Removal of this thin band exposed a natural grey shale layer (104). In order to confirm this was a natural layer a small exploratory cut was made into the shale at the far northeast end to a further 0.20m in depth. This confirmed that the layer was natural and not a redeposit. The excavation of the evaluation trench exposed no archaeological features of any significance.
- 5.3 The earliest dateable finds recovered from the trench was a small fragment of 18<sup>th</sup> century slipware recovered from context (101).
- 5.4 Following the negative results of the evaluation trench it was decided that no further evaluation trench would be required.

## 6 Conclusion

- 6.1 The evaluation trench on land within Cwmifor village, for the development of a new residential dwelling, did not expose any significant archaeology associated with the potential route of a former Roman road. As the projected route of the road through the area is the most likely, its absence in the archaeological record could be explained by the fact that any features that were present have since been ploughed out which would have left little trace.
- 6.2 The earliest finds recovered from the top soil was one small fragment of 19<sup>th</sup> century glazed stoneware.

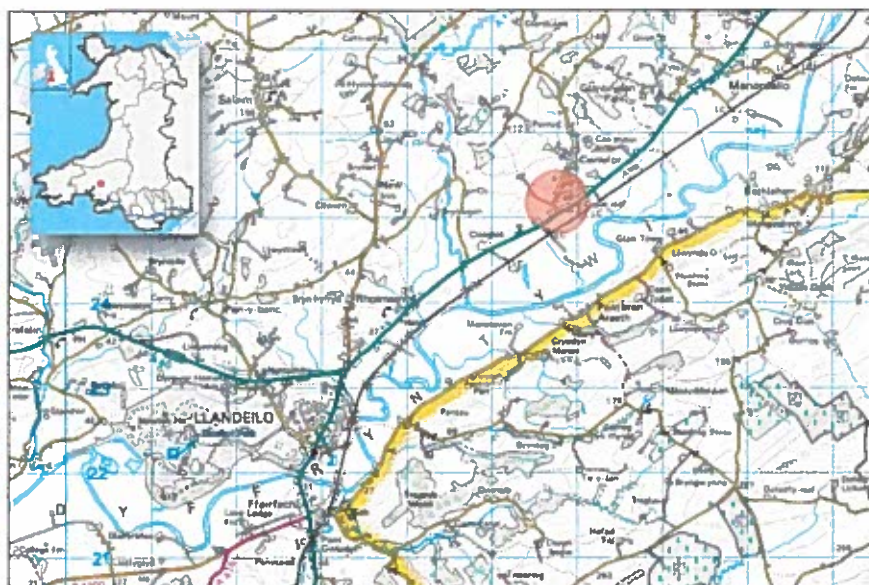


Figure 1. Location map showing position of evaluation.

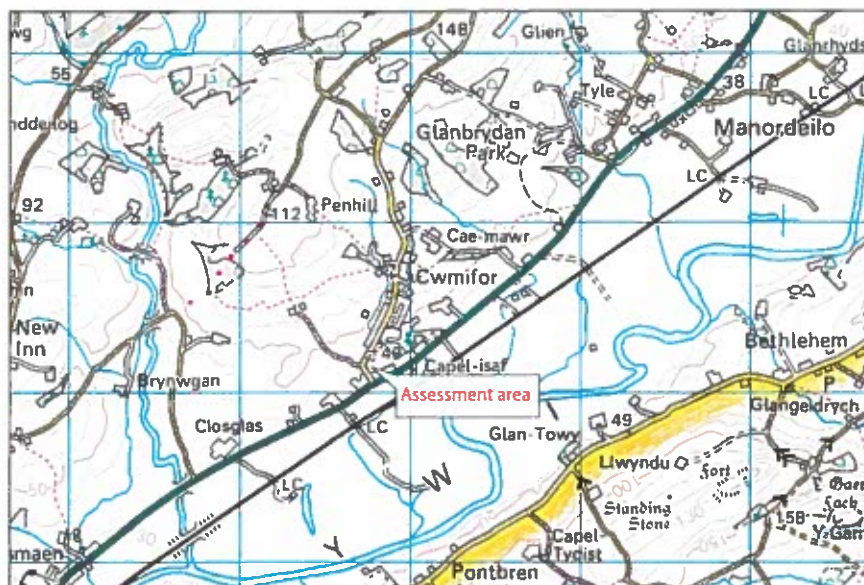
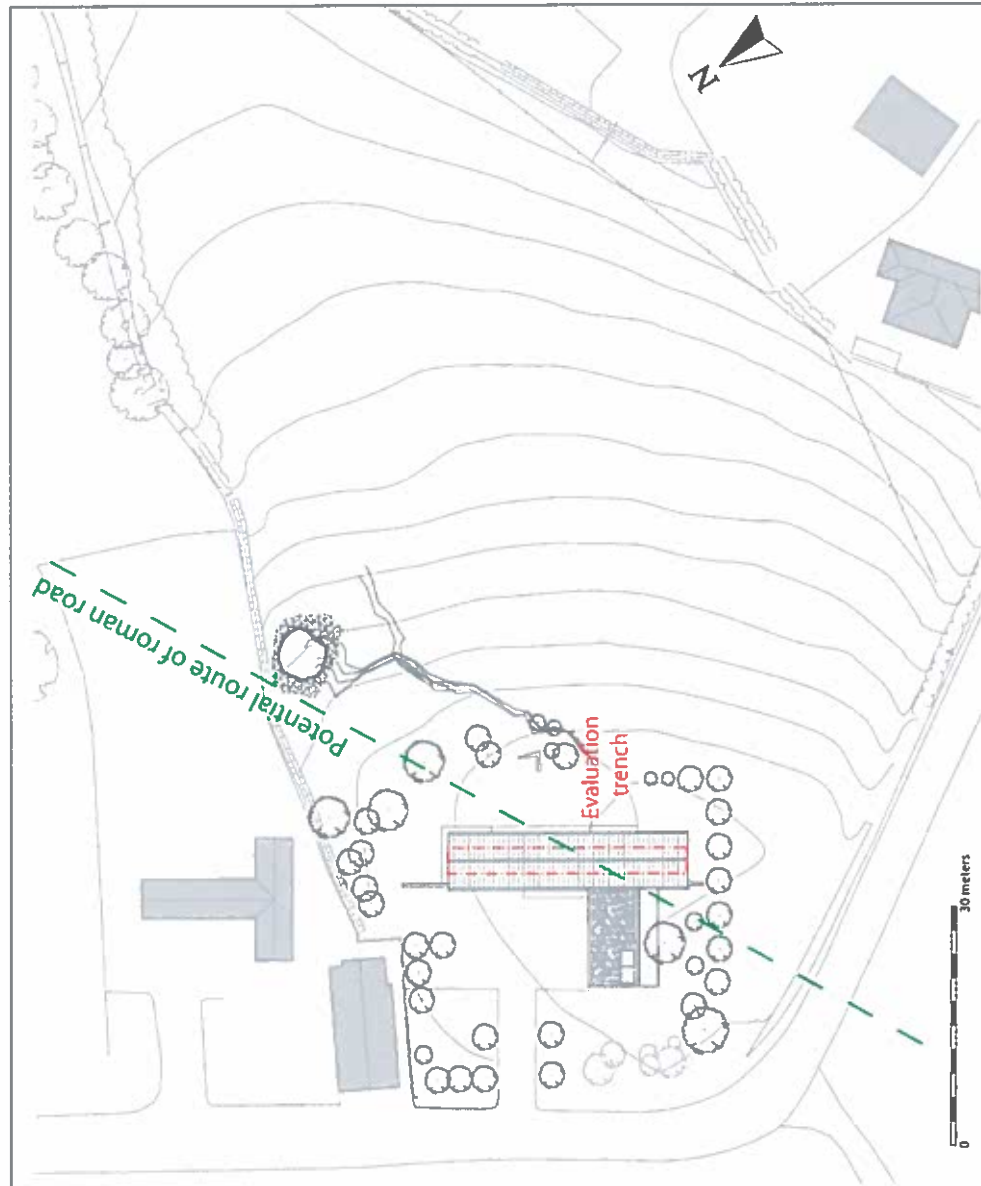


Figure 2. Location map showing position of proposed development.







*Figure 4. Ty Barcud Coch, Cwmifor. Site plan showing proposed development in conjunction with position of evaluation trench.*



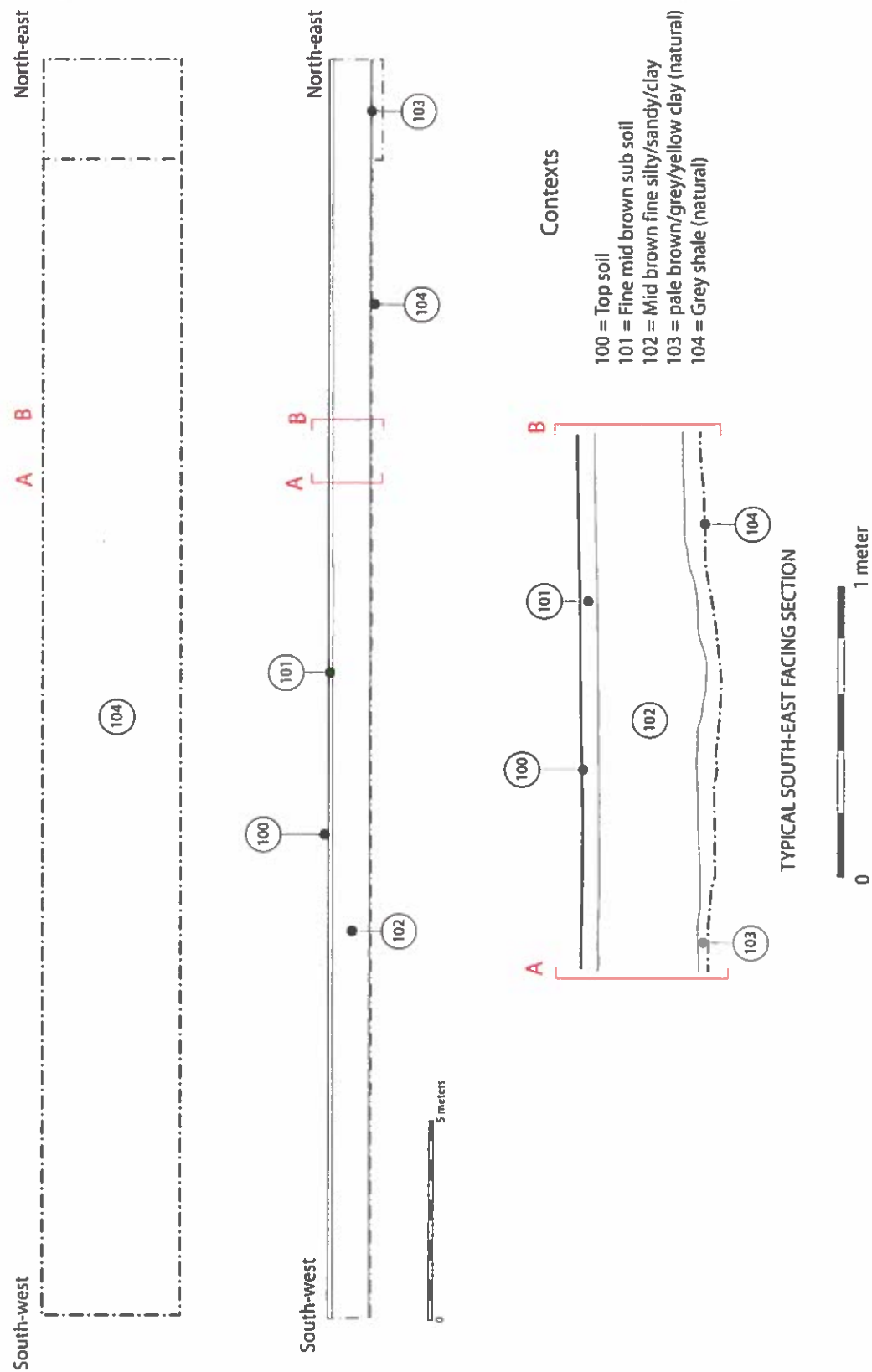


Figure 5. Ty Barcud Coch, Cwmifor. Ground plan and section drawing A-B.



*Figure 4. Ty Barcud Coch, Cwmifor. Site plan showing proposed development in conjunction with position of evaluation trench.*

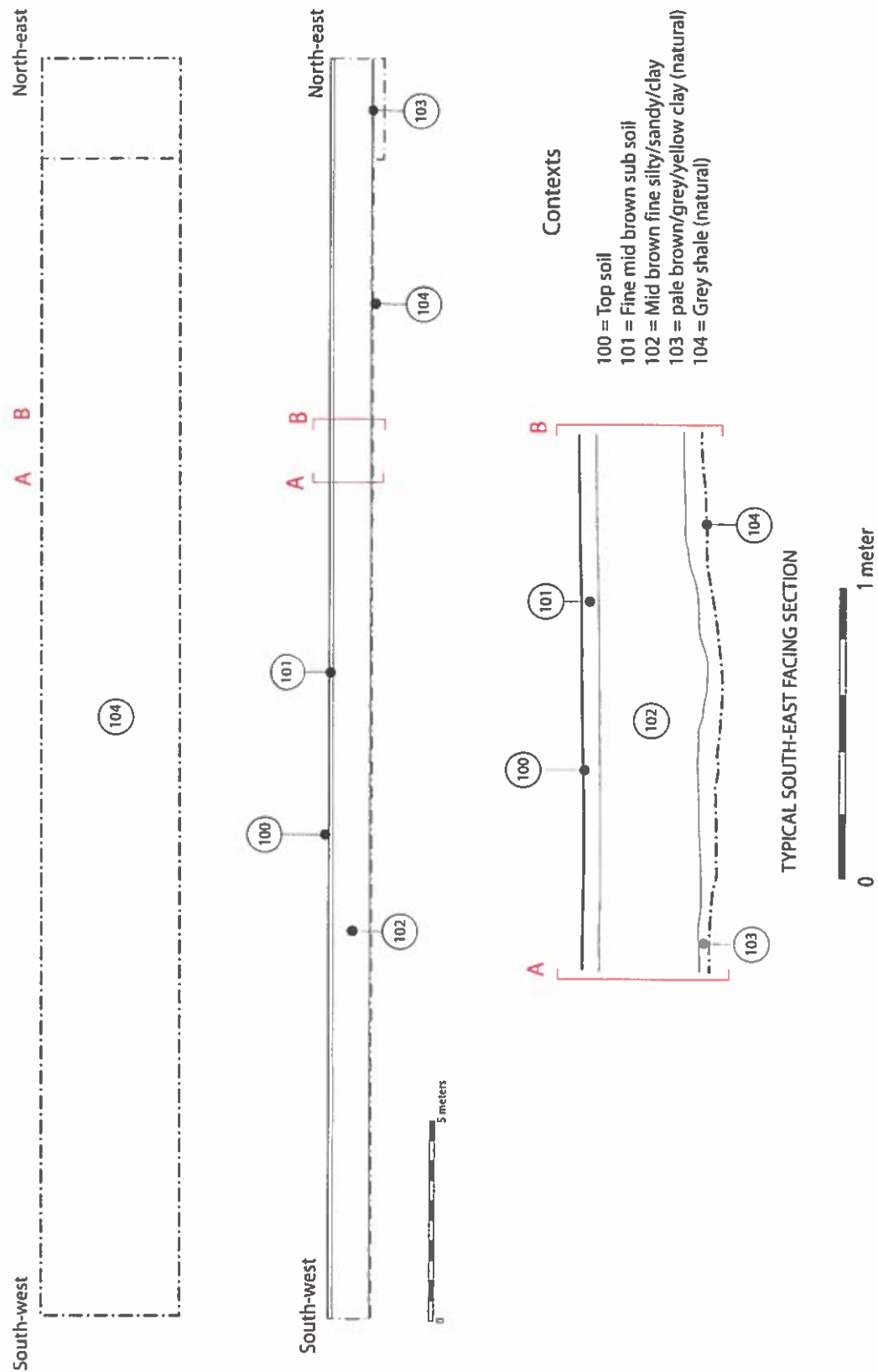


Figure 5. Ty Barcud Coch, Cwmifor. Ground plan and section drawing A-B.

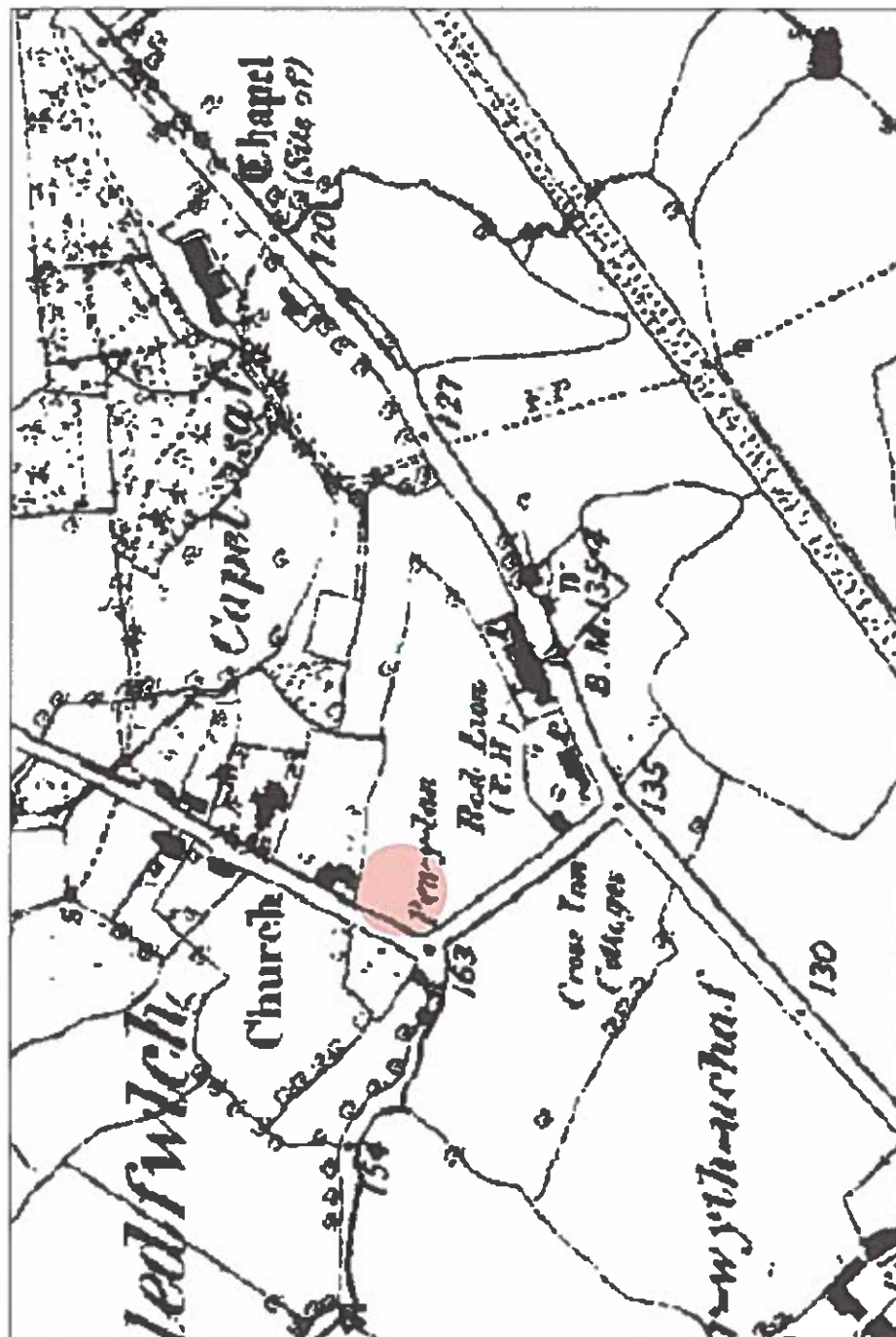


Figure 6. Portion of OS 1st edition map of 1891 showing development area (highlighted).



## **APPENDIX II:** Photo plates



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



**Plate 2.** Evaluation trench. Looking northeast.



## **APPENDIX III:** **Context Register**

## ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

**Ty Barcud Coch, Cwmifor, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire**

**ARCHIVE DESTINATION – DAT, Llandeilo**

Site Name:	<b>Ty Barcud Coch, Cwmifor, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire</b>
Site Code:	<b>TBC/09/EV</b>
PRN:	
NPRN :	<b>N/A</b>
SAM:	<b>N/A</b>
Other Ref No:	<b>HRSW Report No. 122</b>
NGR:	<b>SN 6577 2515</b>
Site Type:	<b>Roman road</b>
Project Type:	<b>Field Evaluation</b>
Project Officer:	<b>Richard Scott Jones</b>
Project Dates:	<b>April 2009</b>
Categories Present:	<b>N/A</b>
Location of Original Archive:	<b>HRSW</b>
Location of duplicate Archives:	<b>DAT, Llandeilo</b>
Number of Finds Boxes:	<b>N/A</b>
Location of Finds:	<b>N/A</b>
Museum Reference:	<b>N/A</b>
Copyright:	<b>HRSW</b>
Restrictions to access:	<b>None</b>