

Heritage

Recording Services Wales

Plot 1, Old Pine Workshop, Llanwnen, Carmarthenshire.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



By

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April 2010

HRSWales
Report No: 124

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On behalf of:

Date: April 2010

HRSW Report No: 124

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Non Technical Summary

The following text details the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Heritage Recording Services Wales (HRSW) during ground work in preparation for the construction of a new residential dwelling and garage on land adjacent to the scheduled ancient monument of the Castell Ddu ringwork, Llanwnnen, near Lampeter, Ceredigion.

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

The watching brief showed that the development area had been cleared and landscaped at some time in the past and much of the area had been used as an area for dumping agricultural waste, farm materials and general domestic debris from the late 19th century onwards. The depth of some of these deposits reached a maximum of 2m in localised areas.

No archaeological features, finds or deposits associated with the medieval ringwork were exposed within the area of the proposed development. The earliest datable finds recovered from the foundation trenches were several fragments of late 19th century pottery.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The following text details the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Heritage Recording Services Wales (HRSW) during ground work in preparation for the construction of a new residential dwelling and garage on land adjacent to the scheduled ancient monument of the Castell Ddu ringwork, Llanwnnen, near Lampeter, Ceredigion.
- 1.2 The watching brief was designed to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on the site.
- 1.3 After being contacted by Mr and Mrs E Davies of Ty-Ni, Llanybydder, HRSW submitted a project specification to Dyfed Archaeological Trust, the regional Archaeological Trust in Llandeilo, detailing the schedule of works in December 2009. This specification was approved and the watching brief work was undertaken in March 2010.
- 1.3 All works were undertaken in accordance with both the IFA's *Standards and guidance: for an archaeological watching brief*, and current Health and Safety legislation.

Planning Background

- 1.4 Outline planning permission was granted by Ceredigion County Council for the proposed construction (Ref: A090681) subject to an archaeological condition as laid out below.

Planning Permission Condition

Condition: "The developer shall ensure that a suitably qualified archaeologist is present during the undertaking of any ground works in the development area, so that an archaeological watching brief can be conducted..."

Reason: 'To ensure the protection of items of archaeological importance'.

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

- 1.5 The location of the proposed development lies in an area of land approximately 80-100m 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-western corner of the Llanwnnen crossroads. To the east the land drops down steeply whereupon meeting the River Grannel. The proposed new dwelling is 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 Dd 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. Gwynn, 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.
- 1.10 Three archaeological evaluations have already been undertaken within the area of the proposed development and all three reports have been submitted and approved by Dyfed Archaeological Trust (HRSW Report No's. 113 / 118 /121) between 2008 -2009. The results of each of these evaluations showed negative evidence of any medieval features associated with the medieval ring work, and in each case no archaeological finds, features or deposits were earlier than the late post medieval periods.

2 Aims and Objectives

- 2.1 In accordance with IFA's *Standards and guidance*, the aims of an archaeological watching brief are
 - to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works.
 - to provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.
- 2.2 A watching brief is not intended to reduce the requirement for excavation or preservation of known or inferred deposits, and it is intended to guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.
- 2.3 The objective of a watching brief is to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on the site.

3 Methodology

- 3.1 With regards the watching brief, the ground work was undertaken by the contractor using a mechanical digger with a 0.50 meter wide grading bucket and hand shovel, when deemed necessary, under the guidance of the qualified supervising archaeologist.
- 3.2 Following the initial top soil stripping of the entire development area, the area was inspected for any potentially significant exposed archaeological finds, features and deposits. Following this the groundwork continued to the required depth for the footings of the proposed new dwelling.
- 3.3 Where features were present limited excavation was undertaken to establish the date, depth, preservation, extent, function and relationship to other features, but in this case no features or finds became evident.
- 3.4 Recording of the exposed features was undertaken in three formats:
 - i) *Photographic record* - Photographs were appropriated in digital format using a 10 mega-pixel camera and recording in SHQ resolution JPEG files.
 - 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, where deemed necessary, 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 watching brief* and current Health and Safety legislation.

4 Results of Watching Brief (see Figs 8 and 9)

- 4.1 In the following, numbers contained within brackets (), refer to context numbers allocated to each posthole during the watching brief.
- 4.2 Work commenced with the removal of the turf and top soil (100) from the entire development area. Following this the stripped area was walked over and investigated for any archaeological features or finds. All pottery fragments recovered from beneath the turf and top soil were late 19th century in date, these were not retained. Once satisfied with the results the footprint of the proposed dwelling and garage was marked out and the cutting of the foundation trenches was begun.
- 4.3 Throughout the entire cutting of all of the foundation trenches for both the residential dwelling and the garage, no archaeological finds, features or deposits were encountered, which implies that the area appears to have been heavily landscaped and levelled in recent times. This interpretation supports the earlier interpretations from earlier archaeological investigations in this area. All deposits encountered below the light brown/grey sub soil (102) were natural deposits of sands and gravels.
- 4.4 Worth mentioning is an area of dumping in the southeastern corner of the footprint of the proposed development. Here, excavation exposed a large pit filled with modern agricultural and domestic waste.

4.5

Summary of results

- 4.8 No archaeological finds, features or deposits were recovered or exposed during the ground works on land adjacent to Castell Ddu ringwork, for the development of the new residential dwelling and garage. The earliest finds recovered were late 19th century pottery fragments from the top soil.

5 Conclusion

- 5.1 The watching brief on land adjacent to Castell Ddu ringwork, for the development of a new residential dwelling and garage, did not expose any significant archaeological deposits or features. The earliest finds recovered but not retained were several fragments of late 19th century pottery from the top soil.
- 5.2 The results from the watching brief and previous evaluations seem to support the interpretation 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.
- 5.3 Although no features associated with the medieval ringwork and potential bailey were not exposed during the watching brief, this doesn't mean however that no such features exist in other immediate areas.

6 Acknowledgements

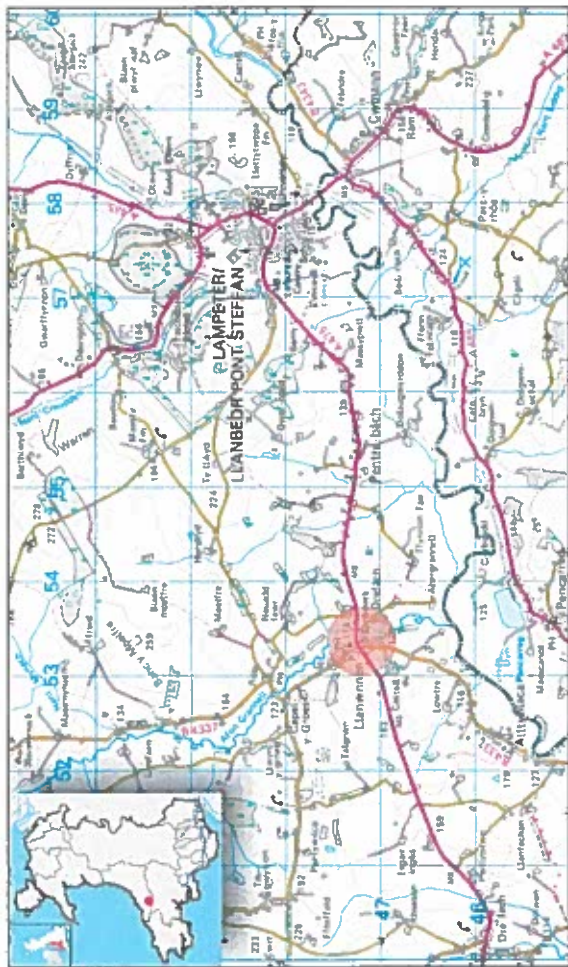
Thanks to; Mrs A Davies for her patience during the ground work and archaeological recording work.

7 Bibliography

Samuel Lewis 1833 Topographical Dictionary of Wales.

APPENDIX I:

Figs & Illustrations



Project Title:

Plot 1, Llanwnnen, Ceredigion.

Date: April 2010

Scale: OS 1:50000

Figures 01:

Location maps

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reals Footpath

Ret. Wall

Timber Fence

Proposed dwelling

PLOT 1

Amenity

Post and Rail Fence

Private Drive

Wall

House

Hedge Nod Bank

Sewer Line IC

3338

Line Of First

Wall

Amenity

Rendered Outbuilding

Proposed Garage

Gardens

Amenity

3789

Fence

Sap

AB

Int

Project Title:
Plot 1, Llanwnnen, Ceredigion.

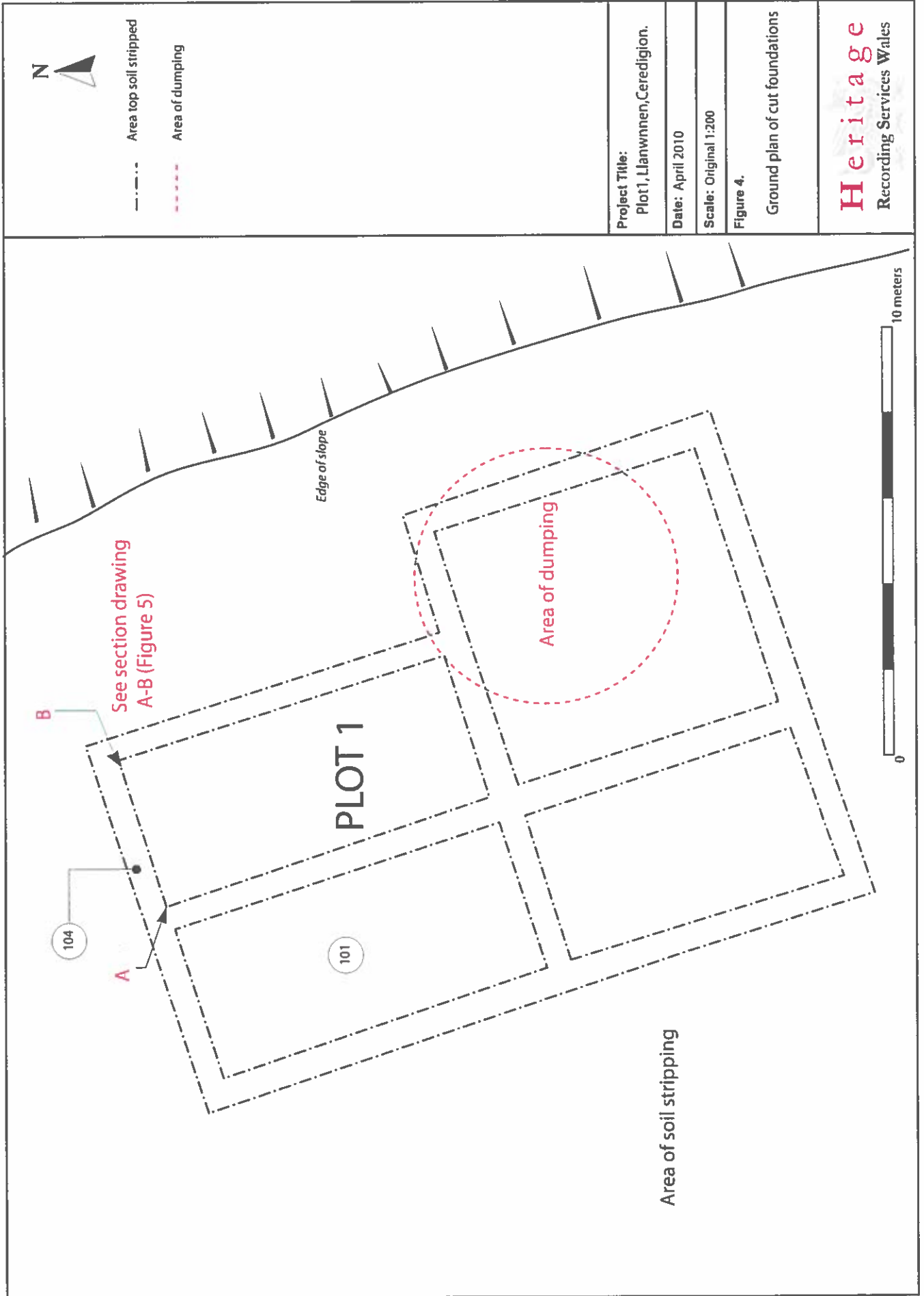
Date: April 2010

Scale: 1:200

Figure 2.
Site plan showing proposed development

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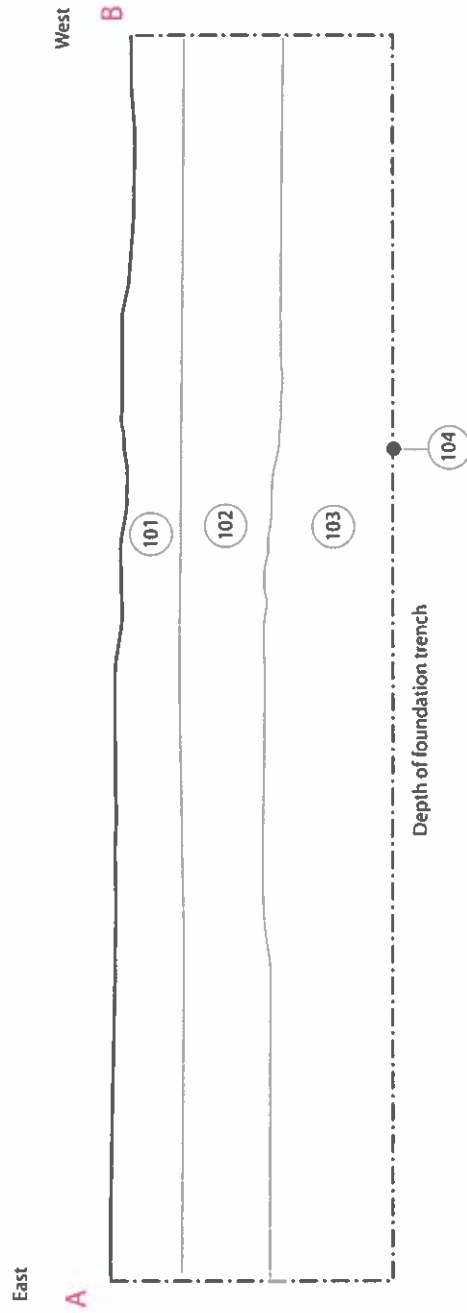
BLOCK PLAN - 1/200





Contexts

- 100. Top soil and Turf
- 101. Grey sub soil with stone inclusions
- 102. Orange sand and gravel
- 103. Gravel (Natural)
- 104.. Gravel (Natural)



NORTH FACING SECTION A-B



Drawn at 1:20 scale

Project Title:

Plot1, Llanwnnen, Ceredigion.

Date:

April 2010

Scale:

Original 1:20

Figure 5.

Typical section through
foundation trench. Section A-B

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APPENDIX II:

Photo plates



Plate 1. View of proposed development area during top soil strip. Looking west.



Plate 2. View of proposed development area during top soil strip. Looking west.



Plate 3. Working shot during top soil strip. Looking west.



Plate 4. Working shot during top soil strip. Looking west.

Job Title:
PLOT 1, OLD PINE WORKSHOP,
LLANWNEN, CARMIS

Drawing Title:

Date: April 2010

Drawn By:

Scale:

Photo plates : 1-4

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Plate 1. View of proposed development area during top soil strip. Looking west.



Plate 2. View of proposed development area during top soil strip. Looking west.



Plate 3. Working shot during top soil strip. Looking west.



Plate 4. Working shot during top soil strip. Looking west.

Job Title:
PLOT 1, OLD PINE WORKSHOP,
LLANWNEN, CARMBS

Drawing Title:

Date: April 2010

Drawn By:

Scale:

Photo plates : 1-4

Heritage
Recording Services Wales



Plate 5. Typical section within foundation trench. Looking north.

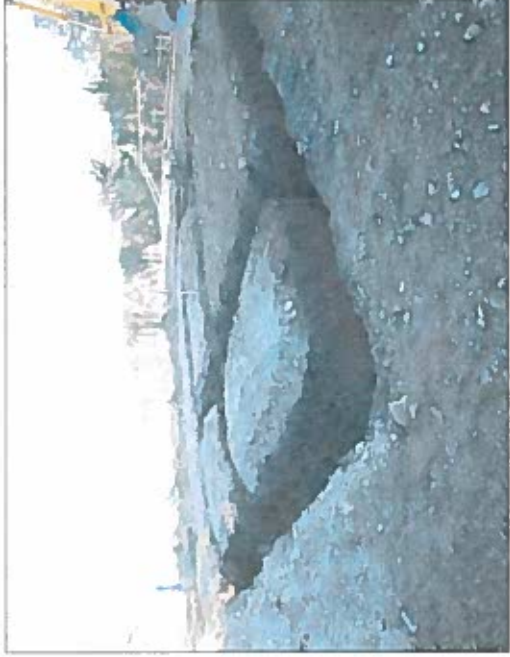


Plate 6. View of proposed development area following foundation cuts. Looking north.

Job Title:
PLOT 1, OLD PINE WORKSHOP,
LLANWNEN, CARMBS

Drawing Title:

Date: April 2010

Drawn By:

Scale:

Photo plates : 5-6

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APPENDIX III:

Context Register

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:	P1L/2010/WB
PRN:	
NPRN :	N/A
SAM:	N/A
Other Ref No:	HRSW Report No. 124
NGR:	SN 5331 4717
Site Type:	Medieval ringwork
Project Type:	Watching Brief
Project Officer:	Richard Scott Jones
Project Dates:	April 2010
Categories Present:	N/A
Location of Original Archive:	RCAHMW
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