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Hedd yr Ynys Excavation 2016

Lôn Fron, Llangefni, Anglesey

Preliminary Excavation Report

Cadw

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd
Gwynedd Archaeological Trust

Hedd yr Ynys Excavation 2016

Lôn Fron, Llangefni, Anglesey

Preliminary Excavation Report

Project No. G2455

Report No. 1375

Prepared for: Cadw

March 2017

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Cover photograph: volunteers hard at work

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Contents

Figures and Plates

Figures

Plates

G2455 HEDD YR YNYS EXCAVATION 2016

HEDD YR YNYS, LÔN FRON, LLANGEFNI (PRN 32799, SH 4566 7518)

GAT report 1375

SUMMARY

A volunteer excavation was undertaken in July 2016 by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, grant aided by Cadw, to investigate geophysical anomalies identified in a field on the southern outskirts of Llangefni, Anglesey (centred on SH 456 752). The area was chosen for investigation because of a discovery in the 19th century of an early medieval cemetery somewhere near this location. Two previous projects had tried to locate this cemetery and the excavation was designed to investigate a range of archaeological anomalies possibly relating to the cemetery.

The excavation failed to find any trace of the cemetery but did find small enclosures possibly associated with a Romano-British settlement. The settlement evidence was represented by a stone-capped drain and other features but no clear plan of a structure. Later pits and ditches cut across the site, some field boundaries and other agricultural features and some of unknown function.

The excavation and metal-detecting survey has generated some finds and a small number of samples which will need processing and analysis. Proposals for further post-excavation work are included in this report, which may help to clarify the date of the site and investigate the activities carried out there.

Cynhaliwyd cloddiad gwirfoddol ym mis Gorffennaf 2016 gan Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd, gyda chymorth gan grant Cadw, i ymchwilio i anghysondebau geoffisegol a nodwyd mewn cae ar gyrion deheuol Llangefni, Ynys Môn (yn canolbwyntio ar SH 456 752). Dewiswyd ymchwilio'r ardal hon oherwydd y darganfyddiad yn y 19eg ganrif o fynwent ganoloesol gynnar rhywle ger y lleoliad hwn. Roedd dau brosiect blaenorol wedi ceisio dod o hyd i'r fynwent hon a chynlluniwyd y cloddiad i ymchwilio i ystod o anomaleddau archaeolegol o bosibl yn ymwneud â'r fynwent.

Ni lwyddodd y gwaith cloddio i ddod o hyd i unrhyw olion o'r fynwent, ond llwyddodd i ganfod llociau bach a oedd o bosibl yn gysylltiedig ag anheddiad Brythonig-Rufeinig. Roedd y dystiolaeth o anheddiad yn cael ei gynrychioli gan ddraen gyda chap cerrig a nodweddion eraill, ond ni ddarganfuwyd cynllun clir o strwythur. Yn ddiweddarach, darganfuwyd pyllau a ffosydd yn torri ar draws y safle, rhai ffiniau caeau a nodweddion amaethyddol eraill a rhai gyda swyddogaeth anhysbys.

Mae'r cloddiad a'r arolwg gyda datgelwyr metel wedi arwain at rhai darganfyddiadau a nifer fach o samplau y bydd angen eu prosesu a'u dadansoddi. Mae cynigion ar gyfer gwaith ôl-gloddio pellach wedi eu cynnwys yn yr adroddiad hwn, a allai helpu i fwrw goleuni ar ddyddiad y safle ac ymchwilio i'r gweithgareddau oedd yn cael eu gwneud yno.

1. INTRODUCTION

A volunteer excavation was undertaken by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT) grant aided by Cadw, to investigate geophysical anomalies identified in a field on the southern outskirts of Llangefni. The field is located on Lôn Fron (centred on SH 456 752) about 100m to the west of the A5114 and immediately to the south of a house called Hedd yr Ynys (figure 1).

The area was chosen for investigation because of a discovery in the 19th century of an early medieval cemetery (PRN 2680) somewhere near this location. Two previous projects carried out by GAT in 2002 and 2012-13 included investigations to try and locate this cemetery. The first included geophysical survey and trial trenching in a field to the north of Lôn Fron, but produced no evidence for burials (Davidson et al 2002). A geophysical survey was carried out in the current field in 2012/13 revealing a range of archaeological anomalies including two small sub-rectangular enclosures interpreted as possibly early medieval mortuary enclosures (Flook 2013, 54-58).

The current work aimed to investigate the geophysical anomalies to establish whether this was indeed the site of the reported cemetery. The proximity of the site to Llangefni, potentially large area that could be opened,

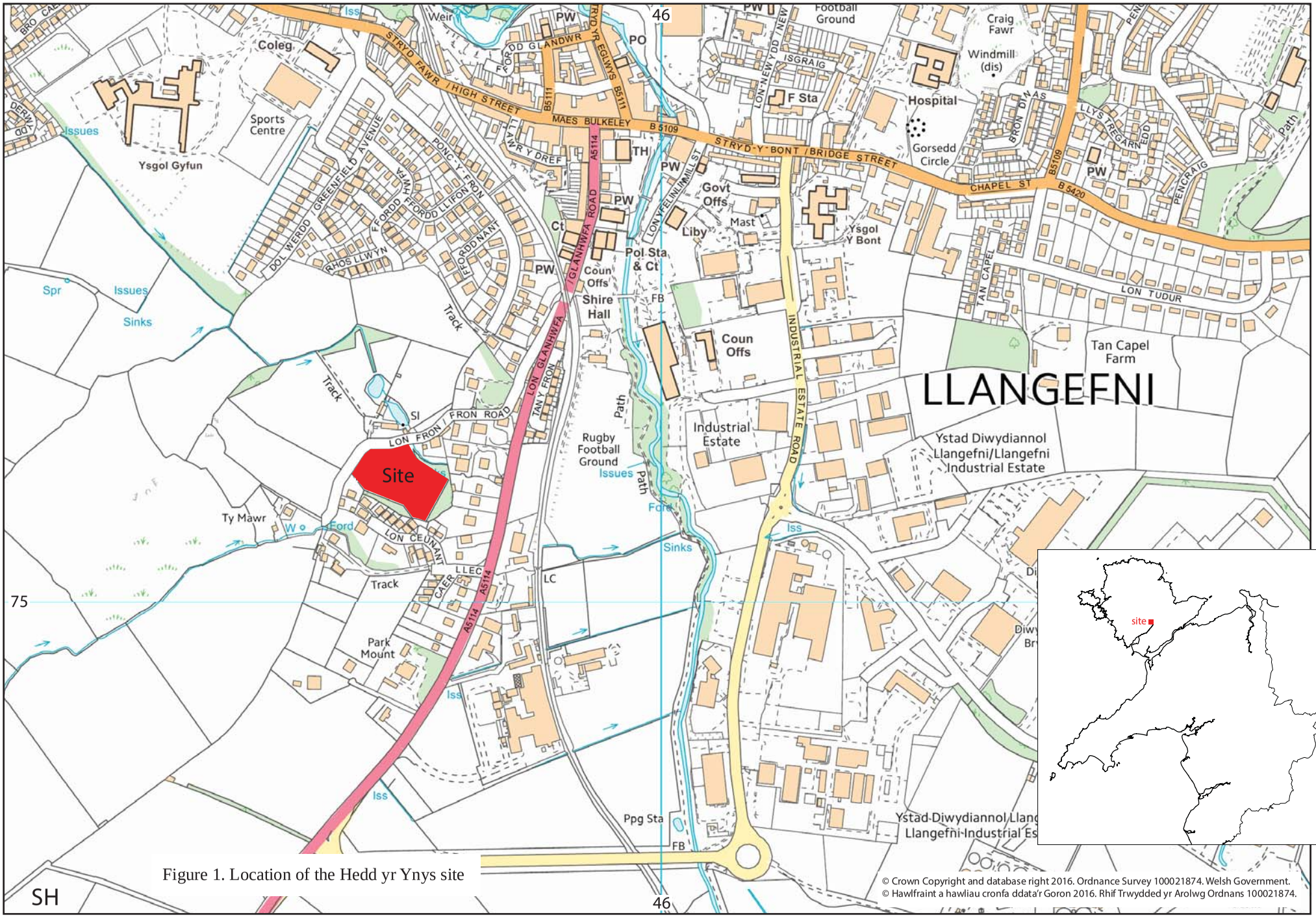


Figure 1. Location of the Hedd yr Ynys site

supportive landowners and guarantee of a certain number of features to investigate made this an ideal site for a community excavation. It is also close to the Tudur Ward Communities First area in Llangefni, making access to the site by people living in that ward relatively easy. One of the major objectives, in addition to clarifying the nature of the archaeology, was to provide as many people as possible with the opportunity to work on a genuine archaeological site, and to open the site for other visitors so that the awareness of archaeology in the area could be raised. This project aimed to encourage participation in conservation projects and provide vocational training, as well as contributing to new research.

2. BACKGROUND

In the early 19th century a cemetery was found near Fron, Llangefni. The original report was published in 1829 and read as follows:

> '*While some workmen were lately demolishing a boundary hedge between Glan Hwfa farm and Fron, in the parish of Llangefni, Anglesey, a great number of graves were found, composed of stones for sides and ends, and some covered over, containing human bones; there were about thirty entire graves, infants and adults, besides detached parts of others, with fragments of bone of more apparent antiquity*' (Gomme 1887, 401).

The stone-lined graves are suggestive of an early medieval cemetery, perhaps dating as early as 6th or 7th centuries AD. Nothing more is known about this find, particularly its exact location.

In 2002 Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, grant aided by Cadw, investigated a field near Fron to try and find this cemetery. A geophysical survey was carried out of the field, which revealed the remains of several field boundaries, and trial trenches were dug to investigate these and test for the presence of graves (figure 2). The boundary ditches were real and furrows running parallel to them were found but no traces of graves (Davidson et al 2002, 43-44, 77-78).

Archive work by the Talwrn Archaeology Group subsequently indicated that a field immediately south of the house called Hedd yr Ynys might be a more likely candidate. In 2012 Roland Flook of Gwynedd Archaeological Trust under took a geophysical survey of the Hedd yr Ynys field as part of the SW Anglesey Landscape Survey Project funded by Cadw and Ynys Môn Council (figures 3 and 4). This revealed various old field boundaries running across the field but also two small sub-circular and sub-rectangular enclosures (features 12 and 13 on figure 4). These have small pit-like features inside and look rather like mortuary enclosures that are found in some early medieval cemeteries (Flook 2013, 54-58).

Other features revealed by the geophysical survey, including enclosures and parts of curvilinear and rectangular features, indicated the multi-phase use of the site. A metal detector survey discovered several pieces of worked copper alloy sheet that were probably modern, whilst field walking located a sherd of probable Roman coarse ware.

The geophysics features were allocated the PRN 32799, although this has not yet been incorporated into the HER. This PRN will be used to refer to the findings of the current excavation as this is a direct investigation of the features located by the geophysical survey.

Some early medieval cemeteries have special graves indicated by mortuary enclosures. These enclosures are generally defined by a shallow ditch marking out a square or rectangular enclosure, often with a gap in one side which appears to be an entrance. It is generally assumed that soil from the ditch would have been heaped over the burial inside the enclosure forming a low mound or barrow, so these features are sometimes known as square barrows. However a few have evidence of timber posts or planks in the ditch, which might have been more of a foundation trench for a wooden wall or palisade around the grave.

Between one and three graves are generally found inside mortuary enclosures and other graves often seem to have been position around these enclosures, using them as a focus. Mortuary enclosures of this sort have an origin in late Roman cemeteries but in North Wales are usually assumed to date to about 6th to 9th centuries AD, although very few have actually been dated. An extensive cemetery with mortuary enclosures was excavated by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust at Llanbeblig, Caernarfon in 2010 and 2011. A radiocarbon date from the ditch of one of

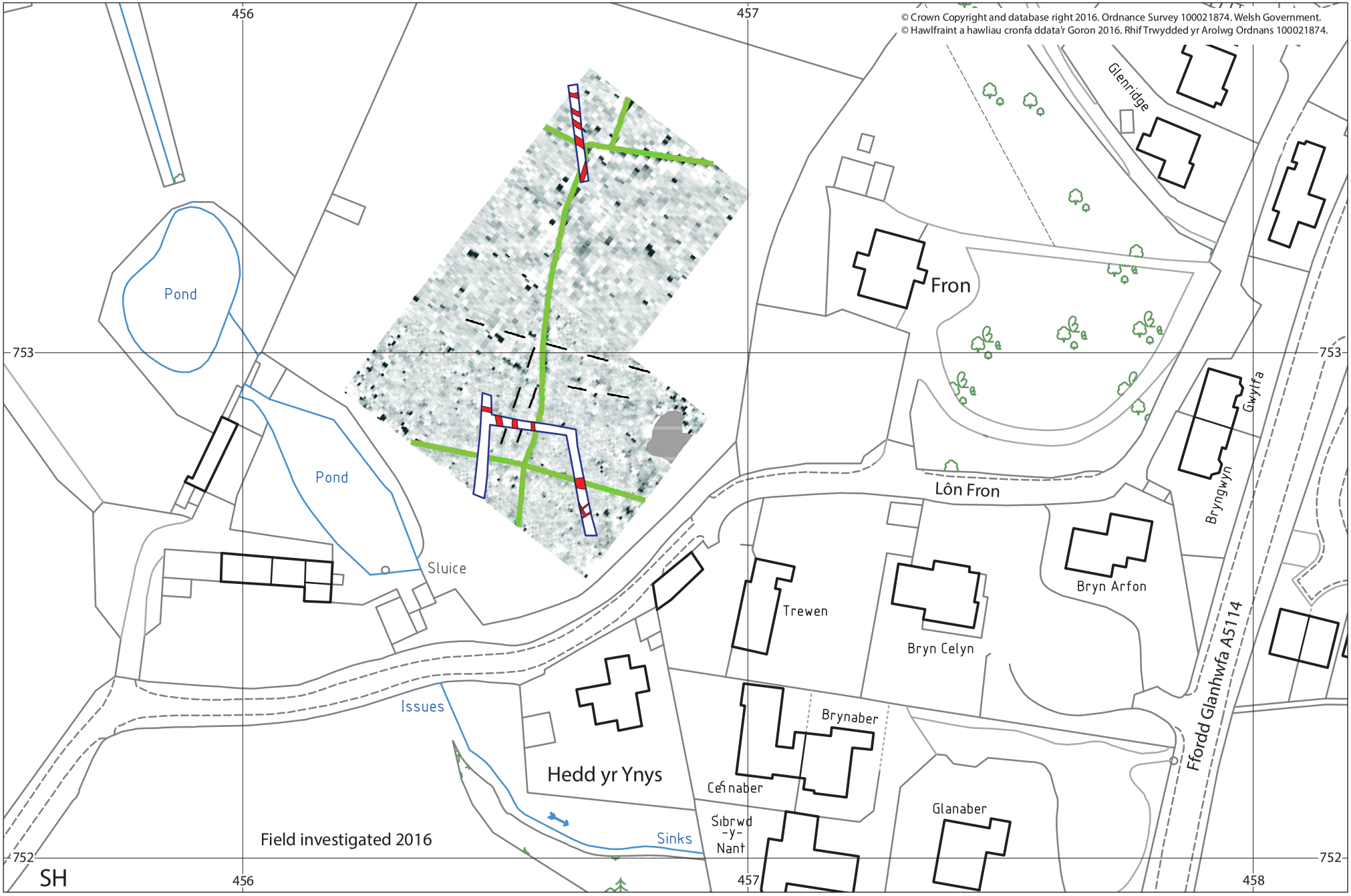


Figure 2. 2002 geophysical survey and trial trenches west of Fron: former field boundaries picked out in green and excavated ditches and furrows in red.

Figure 3. Grey-scale geophysical plot of the Hedd yr Ynys field from GAT report 1127

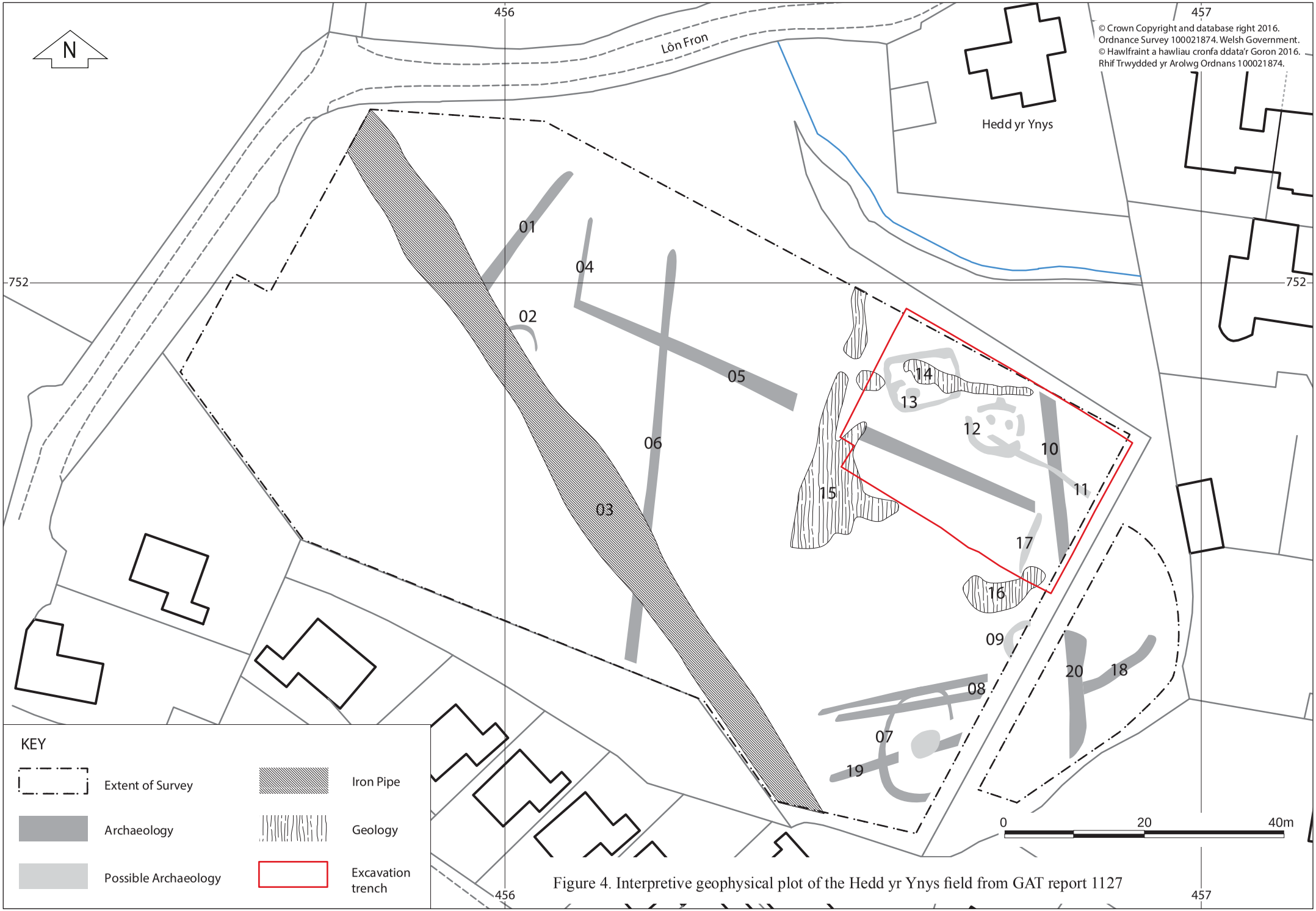


Figure 4. Interpretive geophysical plot of the Hedd yr Ynys field from GAT report 1127

these enclosures showed that it was in existence by the 7th century AD (Kenney and Parry 2013).

The identification of the anomalies at Hedd yr Ynys as mortuary enclosures was not certain as the rectangular feature was larger than most mortuary enclosures and few of these enclosures are sub-circular so the other feature was not typical. However it was clear that there was considerable activity in the field as revealed by the geophysical survey and the likelihood was that this related to activity dating to the medieval period at the latest.

The site of Hedd yr Ynys lies at the northern end of Malltraeth Marsh. Before the Cob was built across the Malltraeth Estuary in 1812, the Afon Cefni canalised and the marshes drained, the whole area was frequently inundated by the sea. Llangefni grew up at the head of the marshes where the road could cross on dry land but there were many fords across the Afon Cefni and the marshes. The site of Hedd yr Ynys lies to the south of the early centre of the town of Llangefni on raised ground that would have overlooked the end of the marsh (figure 5). It is also adjacent to routes out of the town to the south. This would have been a favourable location for occupation in most periods. The slope of the hill means that the site faces south-east, making it a warm and fairly sheltered location. At present the field is surrounded on three sides by modern urban development and is under improved pasture.

Research into the Baron Hill estate maps by Alison Brigstocke of the Talwrn Archaeology Group shows that the field was farmland in the 18th century (Brigstocke 2005/6). The current barns to the north of Lôn Fron were the site of a farm called Ysgubor Ddu and by 1809 there was a croft called Glanhwfa Bach adjacent to the eastern boundary of the field (figure 6). Some estate maps show the field ridged to indicate ploughing (figure 7) and the current smooth state of the ground surface demonstrates that it had formerly been regularly ploughed. The maps also show a small group of enclosed relict strip fields to the south-east of the field and it is highly likely that this whole area was part of an open field in the mediaeval period, which was gradually eroded by the sale and agglomeration of strips and the enclosure of the open land. The 1841 tithe map shows the loss of some field boundaries in the area investigated between 1809 and 1841 and the transfer of the field from Glanhwfa land to Fron (figure 8). It was expected that some of the anomalies identified in the geophysical plot might relate to the agricultural history of the field.

The bedrock under this area is metamorphic schist of the Gwna Group, with some quartzite and igneous intrusions nearby forming part of the same group. The bedrock is covered by Devensian till including outwash sands and gravels. The geological map shows a band of limestone running through Llangefni a little to the east of the site. However it appears that there are outcrops of this close to the surface beyond the plotted limit as some patches of limestone were visible on the site (Geology of Britain Viewer) (figure 9).

Plate 1. 18 tonne mechanical excavator stripping ploughsoil from the trench

Figure 5. Lidar data for the northern end of the Malltraeth Marshes (low-lying marsh land in light brown, Hedd yr Ynys shown as a red square)

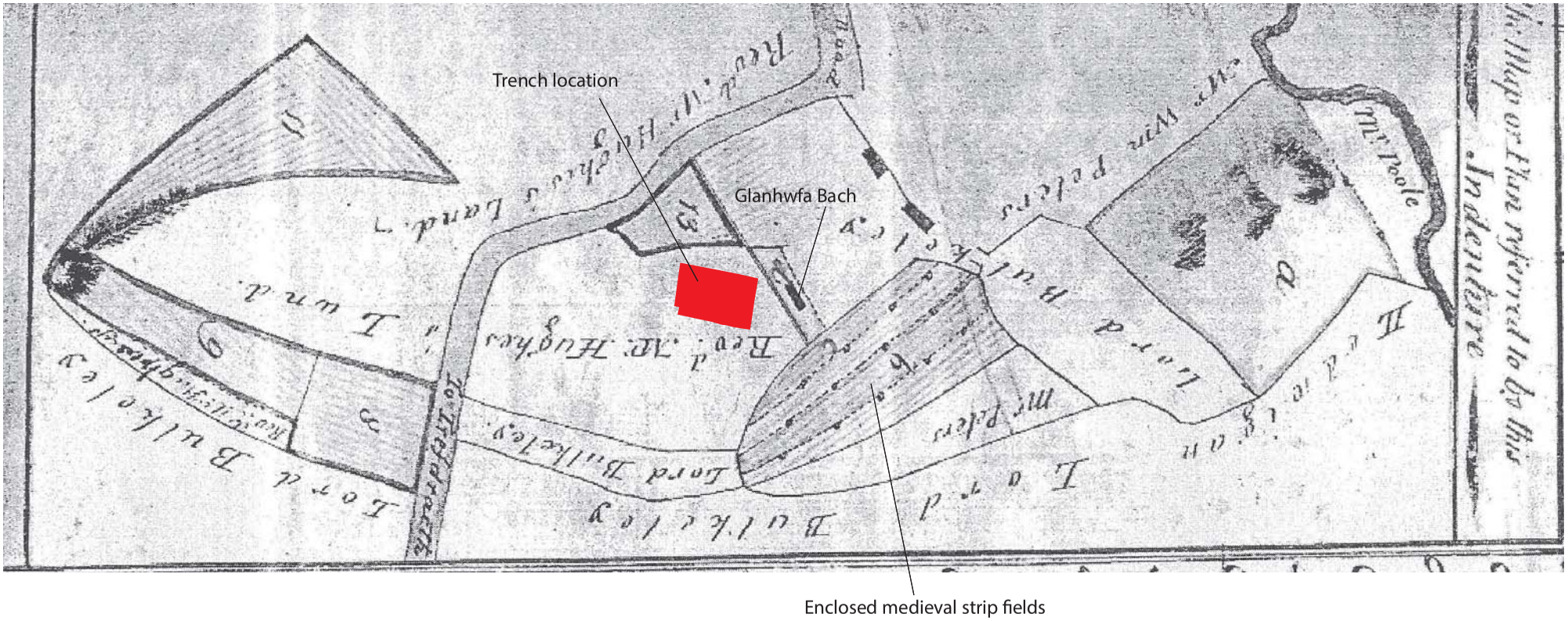
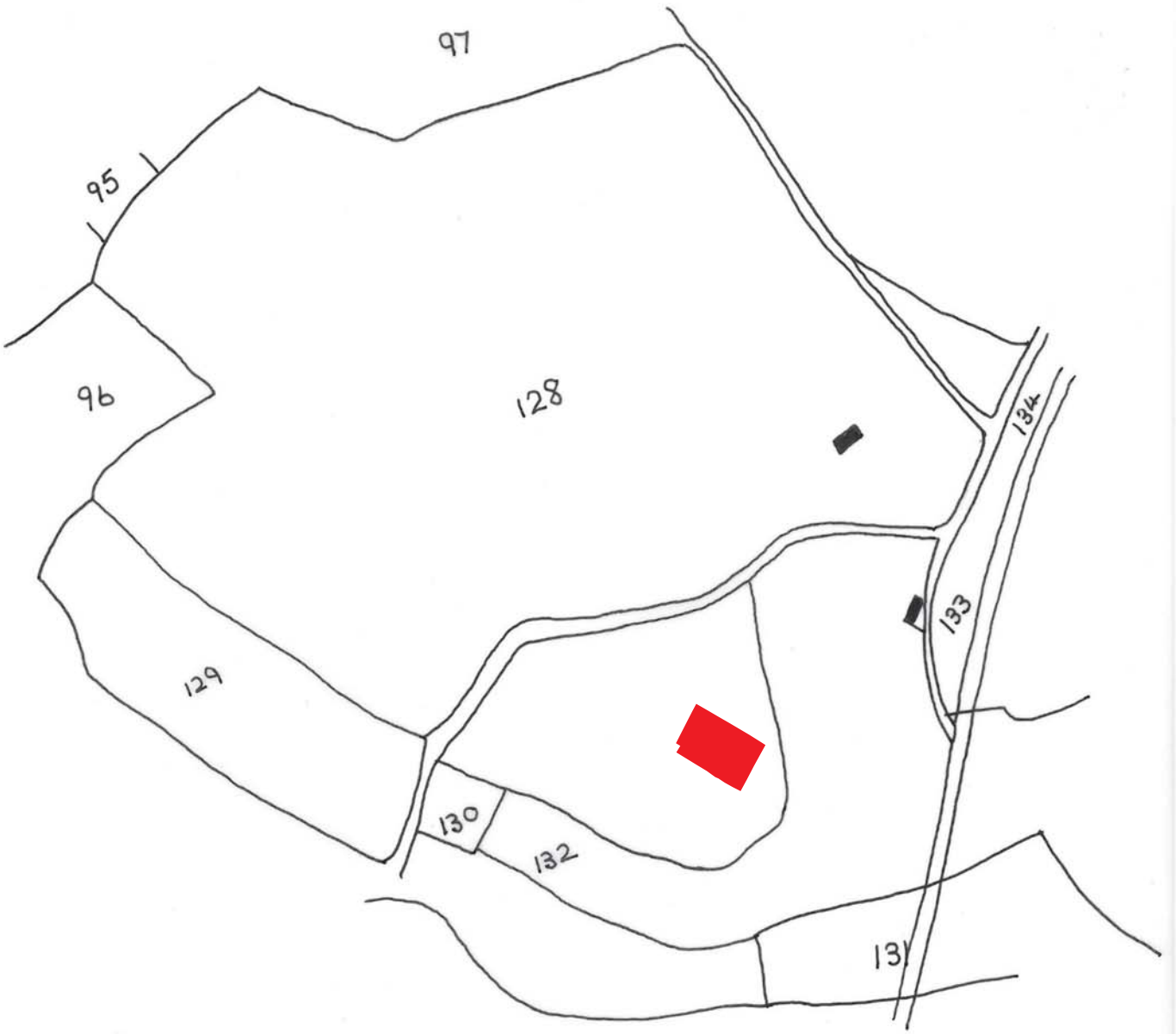


Figure 6. 1809 estate map with surviving remnants of a medieval open field system and a house adjacent to the trench (from a copy made by Alison Brigstocke) (Baron Hill 4007, Land Exchange of 1809)

Figure 7. Baron Hill estate map probably dating to about 1800, showing Glanhwfa land (the trench is in field 5) (from a copy made by Alison Brigstocke)

No.	Glanhwfa	Arable A.	Arable R.	Arable P.	Meadow A	Meadow R	Meadow P.	Pasture A.	Pasture R.	Pasture P.	Content
1	Cae Bryn Llwyd	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	8	
2&3	Candryll	–	3	14	–	–	–	–	–	–	
4	Cae Ty croes mawr	2	–	–	–	–	3	–	–	–	
5	Cae Ty croes bach	–	3	28	–	–	–	–	–	–	
6&7	Lleiniau Berw	–	2	20	–	–	–	–	–	–	
8&9	Cae Cefni	–	1	17	2	–	–	–	–	23	
		8	2	89	2	–	3	–	1	31	11.0.33

Total



Nº	Owner	Land name	Occupier
95	Henry Hughes	Llain Hir	Wm. Jones
96	Rev. Evan Wms.	Ty Mawr	Rev. Evan Williams
97	Griffith Richard	Tyn y Gamdda	Catherine Davies
128	Henry Hughes	Vron	Wm. Williams
129	Henry Hughes	Part of Vron	Wm. Williams
130	Lord Bulkeley	Llain yr Odyn	Rowland Hughes (Hse & garden)
131	John Evans	Quillet in Glanhwrfa	Robert Hughes
132	Lord Bulkeley	Glanhwrfa	Robert Hughes

Figure 8. Tracing of the 1841 tithe map by Alison Brigstocke (trench location in red)

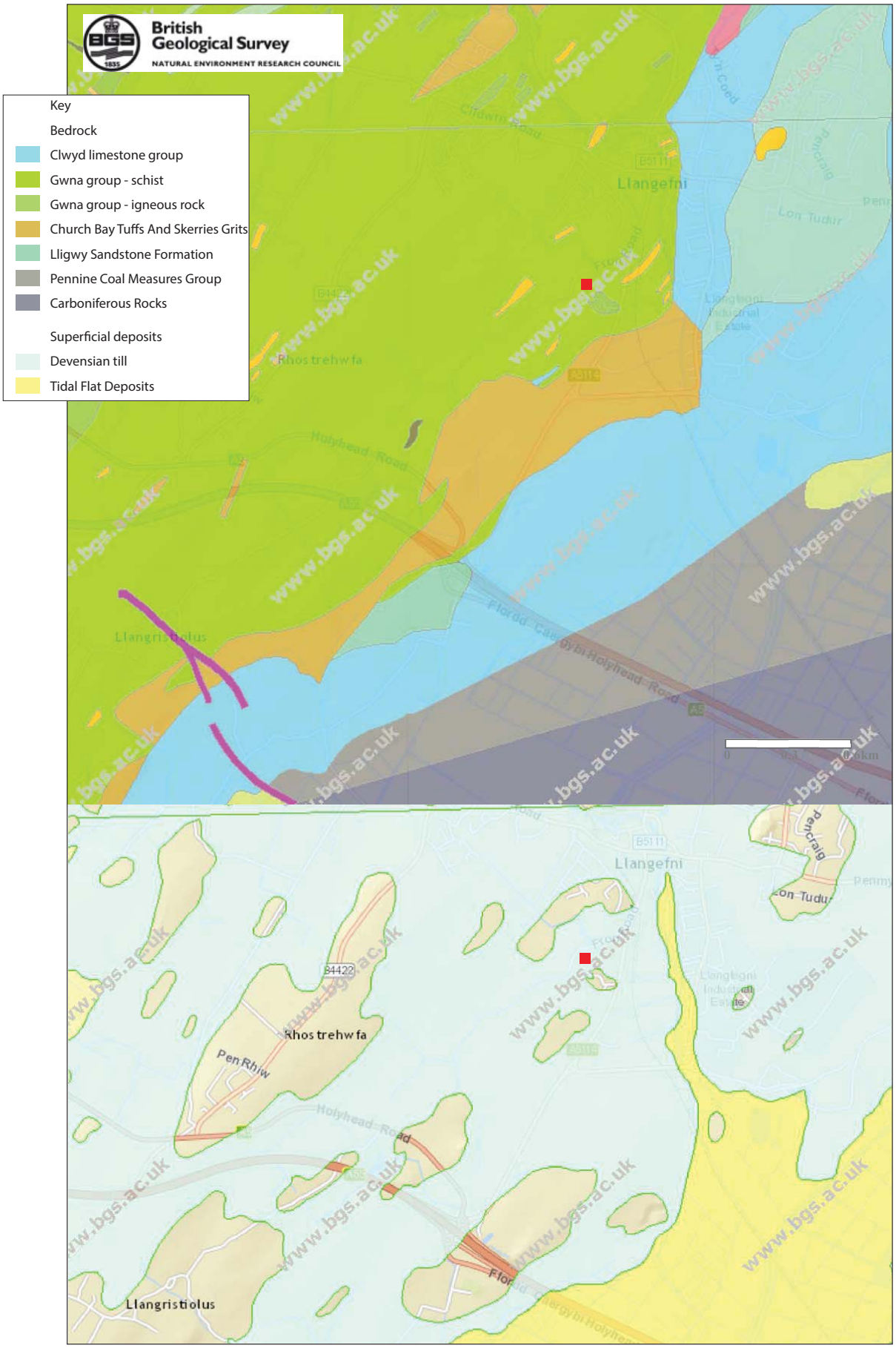


Figure 9. Geology of area around Hedd yr Ynys from Geology of Britain Viewer (bedrock top, superficial deposits bottom, site marked with red square)

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1. Excavation

A trench was located in the eastern corner of the field over the location of the densest archaeology as indicated by the geophysical survey (figure 4). In particular it was located to investigate the possible mortuary enclosures. The trench measured 38m by 25m, and was the largest area that could be stripped in the time available. A Safe Dig Survey was commissioned from PBS Utilities Ltd to check that there were no services in the area of the trench. The only service in the field was the 4 inch water pipe that was clearly visible on the original geophysical survey. This had apparently been installed in 1954. The excavation trench was positioned to be well away from this pipe. In addition a Cable Avoidance Tool was used to scan the area of the trench prior to digging. This was operated by a trained operator and did not reveal any hidden cables.

Plate 2. Use of a dumper to move spoil efficiently

The topsoil and ploughsoil was stripped with an 18 tonne mechanical excavator under constant archaeological supervision (plate 1). The machine used a toothless ditching bucket throughout and a dumper was used to move the spoil to a storage area south of the trench (plate 2). Turf, topsoil and ploughsoil were stored separately so that they could be replaced in order when backfilling the trench. Spoil was stored well back from the edge of the trench.

Soil was removed in thin spits by the machine allowing the archaeologist to monitor closely what was removed. Stripping stopped when either natural sub-strata had been reached or archaeological features or deposits were visible, particularly collections of stones. At the end of the excavation the soil was replaced and compacted by the machines (plate 3). The turf was mixed into the topsoil and spread evenly over the surface of the trench and in addition grass seed was applied to speed-up the recovery of the field.

The stripping took place on 30th June and 1st July and the backfilling took place on 22nd and 23rd July.

As much of the stripped trench as possible was cleaned by hand, in some places more than once to expose and define features. A part of the south-western side of the trench was not cleaned due to a lack of time but this area

Plate 3. Backfilling the trench

had been clearly visible during stripping and it was seen that there were no major features within this area.

Once features had been defined their outlines were plotted on with a survey quality Trimble Global Positioning System (GPS) unit. As many features as possible were sampled by the hand excavation of sondages into or across them. Small or significant features were half sectioned or occasionally fully excavated. Features in the northern corner of the trench were prioritised for investigation as this had the highest density of features but as many as possible elsewhere were sampled with large ditches being given the lowest priority. The timescale and nature of the project meant that not every feature could be sampled. The trench limits were mapped using the GPS equipment and it was also used to establish the height of the Temporary Bench Mark used to calculate levels, which were taken using an automatic level, which the volunteers were trained to use.
Sondages were dug by hand by the volunteers with close monitoring by GAT staff. Photographs were taken using a digital camera set to highest resolution in raw format. Although some recording was done by volunteers during the first two weeks most recording was reserved to the last week when more experienced volunteers helped with the hand drawing of plans (at 1:20 scale), sections (at 1:10 scale) and the writing of notes on proforma context sheets.

All finds were retained and where they were from the fill of a feature or sondage they were recorded by context number. When particularly significant finds were recovered within or beyond features they were given three dimensional locations using the Trimble GPS.

Bulk soil samples were taken from deposits containing charcoal for potential radiocarbon dating and analysis of plant remains. Where the features were small they were sampled 100%, but from larger features 20 litres of soil was taken.

No human remains were found.
Context numbers start from 1001, with 1000 assigned to unstratified finds. This numbering was adopted in case another season of work might be carried out on the site, in which case that could use the numbering from 2001. Photograph, finds and sample record numbers all start from 001.

The excavation ran from 4th to 21st July 2016, with more inexperienced volunteers in the first 2 weeks and a smaller team of experienced volunteers in the last week to complete recording. Three GAT staff were present during the first two weeks and two staff during the last week.

3.2. **Metal-detector survey**

Plate 4. Volunteer metal-detecting the ploughsoil in the trench

As the trench was being mechanically stripped the exposed soil surface was scanned with metal-detectors (plate 4). This was done once the turf was removed and again when the topsoil had been removed. All finds were bagged and labelled and their precise location recorded using a Trimble GPS unit.

When the trench was exposed down to natural or archaeological levels the surface was scanned and any signals marked with white labels marked to indicate iron or non-ferrous signals. This allowed excavators to look out for metal objects when the deposits were excavated by hand. The scanning of the open trench also resulted in the discovery of a Roman coin within a clump of mud from a boot on a particularly wet and muddy day. The context of this find was lost but at least the find itself was recovered which would have been impossible without the metal detector as the mud completely obscured the coin. Regular checks of the spoil heap ensured no other losses of important finds.

During the excavation a thorough search of the rest of the field was carried out. This was scanned repeatedly by metal-detectors and finds within the ploughsoil were dug up. Very recent objects were discarded but most finds were collected and their locations recorded using a Trimble GPS unit, so that all finds have accurate three dimensional information.

3.3. **Report**

This report presents the initial findings of the excavation and presents proposals for analysis of finds and samples. It includes a basic site narrative and outline plans of features.

As the site is fairly simple and the quantity of finds, with the exception of metal finds, are small, it is proposed to not follow the usual two stage approach to post-excavation work. Normally the first stage involves assessing the potential of the artefacts and samples then proposing further work to complete the post-excavation analysis. In this case these two phases are to be conflated so there will not be an assessment of potential report, only a final report. The problem with this approach is that further work costs need to be estimated before the data is assessed. In most cases this can be done quite reliably but the assemblage of metal objects might include more items of importance that require conservation and illustration

As the current report contains the proposals for work right through to the end of the post-excavation stage it also includes publication and archiving. This report is accompanied by an RA1 to be submitted to Cadw with costs for the next financial year to complete this work.

3.4. **Public engagement**

Volunteers

One of the major objectives of the project was to provide the opportunity for as many people as possible to experience working on a genuine archaeological excavation. The opportunity to volunteer was advertised by contacting everyone on the GAT database of volunteers and those who previously expressed an interested in volunteering, as well as the Friends of GAT. However a wider range of volunteers was sought by a piece in the Daily Post requesting volunteers. This was extremely successful, attracting many applications from a wide range of people. The project was also advertised through The Gwynedd Volunteer Centre on their website (www.volunteering-wales.net). Fliers were produced and these were displayed in the Communities First Office and at a Volunteering Information Event held by Medrwn Môn at the Town Hall, Llangefni on 9th June 2016.

The response from potential volunteers was considerable. The deadline for applications was 17th June and confirmation of the days they could work was sent out on 20th June. An attempt was made to accommodate as many volunteers as possible, which meant limiting most volunteers to no more than 5 days. Initially 64 volunteers were offered places on the excavation. A small number of these were experienced volunteers who had previously worked on many GAT sites and two were metal-detectorists, but of most the volunteers had little or no experience.

Some volunteers offered places later cancelled and generally their time was covered by asking other volunteers to extend their hours, although a small number of additional volunteers were invited to join the project. The final total for volunteers involved in the project was therefore 56 individuals (including a support worker attending with one volunteer). A total of 1387.5 hours were worked by volunteers during the excavation (including some voluntary hours worked by Jane Kenney).

The volunteers were divided into age groups as shown in the table below.

Age group	No. of volunteers
16-17	4
18-25	6
26-30	4
31-40	6
41-49	6
50-59	8
60+	22
Total	**56**

As usual the largest proportion of the volunteers fell into the oldest age groups but 17.8% of the volunteers were 25 years old or under.

From 4th to 15th July the focus was on volunteers with little or no previous archaeological experience, although

Plate 5. Volunteers undertaking the initial trowelling of the site

Plate 6. Volunteer excavating feature [1009]

Plate 7. Volunteers excavating sondages through ditch [1019]

Plate 8. Volunteers digging and recording features

Plate 9. Very hot dry conditions

Plate 10. Wet conditions

Plate 11. Still smiling

some experienced volunteers also assisted. Volunteers generally started by learning trowelling techniques (plate 5) then most were moved on to excavation of features (plates 6 and 7). Some also were given the opportunity to learn drawing skills (plate 8) but the numbers involved meant that training in detailed recording for most people was not possible as there were too few professional staff. All volunteers were given a full health and safety induction and were closely monitored during excavation. The weather was generally favourable but work did continue through both very hot dry weather (plate 9) and one day of wet and miserable weather (plate 10), and the volunteers are to be praised for their determination in continuing working with a smile even when conditions were difficult (plate 11).

In the final week (18th to 21st July) a smaller team of experienced volunteers assisted GAT staff to complete the excavation and recording. Some had done little planning and recording previously and training was given in these skills.

During the stripping of the trench and while the excavation was underway a metal-detector survey of the soil in the trench and of the rest of the field was undertaken by experienced metal-detectorists. This team consisted of Beaver Hughes, Neil Martins and Ian Harrison Brown with some assistance from Archie Gillespie.

Normally during an excavation such as this visits by children from local schools would be arranged. However uncertainties about the availability of the GAT Outreach officer meant that schools were not contacted until close the date of the dig. Three of the closest schools were contacted to ask if they would like to visit the site. These were two primary schools (Ysgol y Graig and Ysgol Corn Hir) and the secondary school (Ysgol Gyfun). Due to the proximity to the end of term and difficulties in availability of staff only children from Ysgol Corn Hir were able to visit the site. On 11th July 30 pupils from Ysgol Corn Hir attended the site and saw the archaeologists at work. They also saw and discussed the finds from the site. The school visit was led by Rhys Mwyn (plate 12).

Plate 12. Rhys Mwyn discussing finds from the site with children from Ysgol Corn Hir

Open Day

An Open Day was held on the 17th July, allowing the public to visit the site. This was advertised by fliers displayed in the Communities First Office and at a Volunteering Information Event held by Medrwn Môn, through contacting the Friends of GAT and previous volunteers, through the Daily Post and through a piece in Y Glorian, the local Papur Bro for Llangefni. The latter was particularly effective at attracting local people. The event was also mentioned on Welsh language radio.

People were required to book on specific tours so that numbers could be predicted and controlled, but inevitably some people did turn up on the day without booking and joined the next appropriate tour. Parking was arranged

Plate 13. Dave Hopewell describing the site to a tour

Plate 14. Welsh and English tours running simultaneously on site

Plate 15. Inside the marquee

Plate 16. Having tea outside the old mill

in a County Council carpark to avoid too many cars travelling down the narrow lane to the site, but the Morgans allowed one of their fields to be used for parking for those unable to walk.

There were 5 tours in English throughout the day and 3 tours in Welsh, one an unplanned addition due to the number of people attending (plates 13 and 14). 151 people booked on tours and approximately 20 people turned up without booking so about 170 people attended the event. A marquee held displays on the site and other sites in the area, including some of the finds from the site (plate 15). The displays were bilingual and a volunteer generously gave her time to translate the text into Welsh (this time is in addition to the excavation time listed above).

Julia Morgan set up a tea room in the old mill building opposite the site and her friends supplied numerous cakes and sandwiches which were available in return for a donation to Digartref (a charity providing support for the homeless in NW Wales). This provided refreshments for the Open Day visitors and raised well over £600 for the charity. The fine weather made it very pleasant to sit on the lawn, surrounded by flowers having tea (plate 16).

In addition to the Open Day a tour was arranged for the Talwrn Archaeology Group. Thirty members of the group came on 4.30pm on 20th July to see the site and they were also able to view the displays created for the Open Day and to see some of the best finds.

Website and blog

A webpage was set up on the GAT website for the project, providing a focus for enquiries and information. A blog was maintained on the GAT website (http://www.heneb.co.uk/heddyrynys/blog.html) during the excavation so that people could follow the progress of the dig. The blog was available in both English and Welsh with numerous images. The information and photographs were also released on Facebook and Twitter.

3.5. Copyright

4. RESULTS

Detailed descriptions of all contexts are listed in appendix III. See figure 4 for the location of the trench and figure 10 for the features within the trench.

4.1. Topsoil, ploughsoil and natural

The topsoil (1001) was a dark brown silt with occasional small stones and was about 0.15m deep. The ploughsoil (1002) was a mid-brown clayey silt with a few stones, which was barely 0.05m deep in places at the north-western end of the site, but reached about 0.2m deep at the eastern end. The natural sub-strata over the area of the trench were very varied. In places patches of broken limestone bedrock were exposed, but much of the area was covered in glacial boulder clay and gravels. The boulder clay, which covered the majority of the site, was a pale yellow silty clay containing small and medium stones, but this clay also appeared in occasional patches of grey and red brown. Overlying the boulder clay in the northern corner of the trench was a red-brown gravel with clay matrix (1057). This was up to 0.6m deep where its depth could be seen, though over most of the area it was much shallower. It contained c.20% small stones with occasional medium stones up to 0.3m long, some of which lie fairly flat and were suggestive of archaeological features, but on close inspection were seen to be firmly embedded in the natural deposits. There were also patches of similar gravel in the eastern part of the trench.

Towards the western side of the trench was an orange-brown clayey silt with few stones (1079). This overlay the boulder clay and appears similar to silt deposits, generally assumed to be post-glacial wind-blown loess, that are seen in many areas on Anglesey. In the southern corner of the trench was an extensive deposit of dark grey-brown silt (1098). This was not investigated but possibly was the result of flooding filling a hollow in this area or maintaining an area of boggy ground.

4.2. **Small ditched enclosures**

The northern part of the site was difficult to untangle as many of the intercutting features had identical fills so it was impossible to see where one feature cut another. This and the lack of time to do more than just sample each feature made it difficult to determine exactly what was happening, however it was clear that the rectangular enclosure identified by the geophysical survey was present (figure 11). This was revealed to be a shallow ditch [1008] about 0.6m wide and up to 0.35m deep. This ran nearly north-south before turning a gently curving corner to run west-south-west to east-north-east (plate 17). The northern end was lost in feature [1046] and the east-north-eastern end petered out but it is likely that it originally joined another ditch [1025] running perpendicular from the south-south-east. This may well have continued as another small ditch [1125] cut by the larger ditch [1019] or by pit [1055]. The junction of the ditches was where the limestone showed through and it is possible that the ditches were shallower here and did not cut into the rock, so traces of the junction have been lost.

Ditch [1008] had a dark brown clayey silt fill (1007), but part of its northern stretch also contained *c*. 30% large angular and sub-angular stones up to 0.26m long (1070) (plate 18). The stones seemed to be randomly distributed and not positioned to line the feature or form any structure. The northern side of this enclosure was confused by later features, especially a stone-filled land drain [1058] and it is not clear whether ditch [1008] originally had a return on its northern side.

Ditch [1025] formed part of the feature seen as a sub-circular enclosure on the geophysics, but the slight anomalies forming the northern part of the circle were seen to be just variations in the natural and no sub-circular feature was present. Ditch [1025] which was 0.5m wide and 0.18m deep where it was sampled (plate 19) ran north-north-west to south-south-east before turning a corner at a wider angle than [1008] and running south-east before probably being cut by [1122]. Where sampled its fill (1024) was a dark grey silty with occasional stones, but further north the fill contained more clay and had a pink-red hue.

To the north of the eastern part of ditch [1025] was a short length of ditch [1023] (plate 20) which was almost parallel to that part of [1025] and of very similar character being 0.48m wide and 0.1m deep. Its south-eastern end was a fairly rounded terminus but it may merely have been rising up slightly and the rest of the ditch may have been lost (plate 21). The north-western end was not investigated but possibly ran into a posthole indicated by several fairly large stones. Other features in this area seemed to be later than [1025] although the sequence in which the ditches cut each other was not closely investigated.

In the southern part of the site there was also a straight ditch that turned a rounded corner. This ditch [1039] was about 0.6m wide and 0.2m deep (plates 22 to 24). It ran from a well-defined rounded western terminal (plate 22) south-east until it turned a neat rounded corner to then run south-west, under the baulk. The fill was generally a dark grey-brown clayey silt with relatively few stones but in its south-western end where it went under the baulk the fill contained *c*.30% small and medium stones. These were randomly distributed and did not form a lining.

Running almost perpendicular to [1039] to the north, was another similar ditch [1037] (plate 25). This was about 0.38m wide and 0.18m deep and it did not quite touch ditch [1039]. Ditch [1037] ran roughly north-east then curved very gradually towards the north-west and faded out in a confused and probably heavily eroded northern end. Its fill (1036) was a dark grey-brown clayey silt very similar to that of [1039] but with few stones.

The ditches in the southern part of the trench were associated with other features. Within the area defined by ditches [1037] and [1039] were two small pits ([1042] (plate 26) and [1101]), no more than 0.48m in diameter and 0.12m deep. The latter had a charcoal-rich fill. There was also a slightly curving gully [1114], 2m long and 0.44m wide but only 0.06m deep where investigated. This may have been an animal burrow but it could have been related to ditch [1039] which it did not quite reach.

Immediately north of [1037] was a small group of potential features. There was an area of very pale clay (1117), which was probably part of the natural variation in the boulder clay (plate 27). Running though this was an amorphous, roughly L-shaped, very shallow feature [1119]. This was only briefly investigated and may have been traces of ploughing rather than a definite feature. To the east of the pale clay was a linear patch of brown clayey silt (1120) with some small stones and patches of charcoal. This was not investigated, so it is uncertain whether this is the fill of a feature. On the western side of the pale clay was a small, very shallow pit or hollow [1064], 0.51m in diameter and 0.07m deep (plate 28). Its fill had a high proportion of charcoal. In the centre of the pale clay was a slight circular hollow, c.0.3m in diameter and only 0.08m deep. This was almost entirely filled with a circular pecked stone object (SF 173) (plate 29).

Figure 10. Features revealed in the excavation

Plate 17. Curving corner on ditch [1008]

Plate 18. Stony fill (1070) in northern part of ditch [1008]

Plate 19. Sondage across ditch [1025], showing the ditch running south-east until probably cut by ditch [1122]

Plate 20. Ditches [1023] and [1025] with the area between them cleaned

Plate 21. Eastern terminal of ditch [1023]

Plate 22. Western terminal of ditch [1039]

Plate 23. Ditches [1039] and [1037] as first exposed during troweling

Plate 24. Sondage against baulk at southern end of ditch [1039]

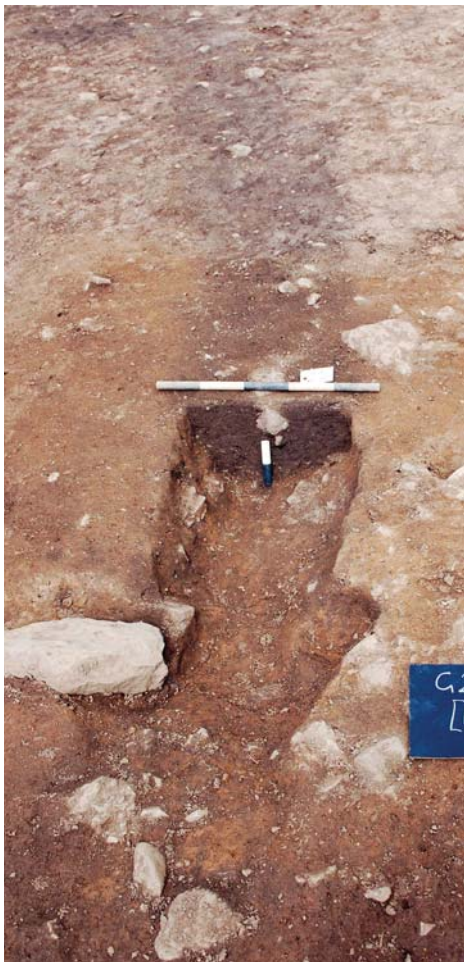


Plate 25. Southern end of ditch [1037]

Plate 26. Small pit [1042] half sectioned

Plate 27. Area of pale clay (1117) with possible features [1119] and (1120) and hollows [1064] and [1085]

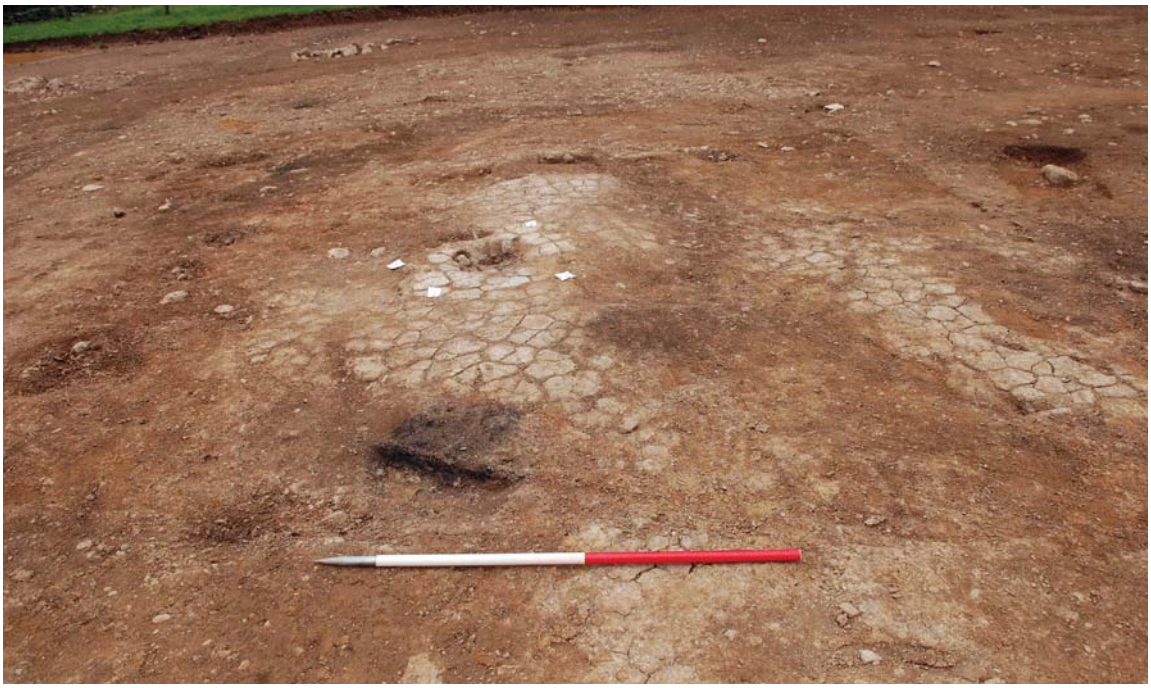


Plate 28. Half section of small pit/hollow [1064]

Plate 29. Pecked stone (SF173) in hollow [1085]

The northern enclosure [1008] had several pits and other features within it but it is difficult to determine if any of these were related to the enclosure and they are described below.

4.3. **Northern pits and ditches**

The northern corner of the site contained numerous features. One of the most prominent was ditch [1019], about 1.4m wide, which ran roughly east-west through the northern part of the site. It was investigated in two sondages and these were up to 0.35m deep. One sondage had a fairly V-shaped profile but the other was much more U-shaped, so the profile of the ditch seems to be variable, possibly as it is partly cut through limestone (plates 30 and 31). The fill was a brown clayey silt with some stones very similar to the fills of other features in the area. This led to confusion about the western end of this ditch. Here it was probably cut by two large pits but the similarity in fills make it impossible to prove whether the pits cut the ditch or *vice versa*. Feature [1055] seems to have been a large pit possibly about 3m in diameter. A sondage dug into this showed that it was at least 1.2m deep and the lowest part of the pit was not reached (plate 32). It had been cut through the fractured limestone bedrock, so its original excavation would have been a considerable task. It was filled by layers of brown clayey silt with occasional stones but no evidence of rubbish or ash having being dumped into it. It seems to have filled gradually by ploughsoil eroding into it. Adjacent to this was another pit [1028], also poorly defined but probably oval in plan, measuring about 3m by 4m. A sondage showed that this was about 0.7m deep and dug into gravel and boulder clay (plate 33). The northern limit of this pit could not been seen in the deposits but is suggested by the limit of the strong signal on the geophysical plot (figure 11).

A pit of similar size (over 2.45m long by 1.9m wide and 0.85m deep) was located against the western baulk of the trench (plate 34). This feature [1018] is probably part of an elongated oval pit as indicated by the geophysical signal, and is not the terminal of a ditch. Both [1028] and [1018] had uniform brown clayey silt fills. Pit [1018] did seem to have a step left in its eastern side, possibly for access.

North of [1018] was a feature that initially appeared to be the end of the ditch [1019]. It was not quite on the same alignment but seemed to be joined to it by brown ditch fill. This feature [1046] was sectioned against the western baulk of the trench. In section it had a V-shaped profile, was 1.8m across and 0.75m deep (plate 35). The base of the feature was very narrow, appearing similar to an "ankle-breaker" typical of Iron Age defensive ditches. However a close inspection of the geophysical plot suggests that this may have been a separate feature about 4.5m long, aligned north-west to south-east (figure 11). Stones (1043) within the upper part of this feature may be related to a drainage feature connected to a stone-filled land drain [1058] and this gave the impression on the ground of [1046] joining through to other features in this area and potentially to ditch [1019] (plate 36), whereas the geophysical plot suggests that it was a separate feature (figure 11). There was insufficient time to thoroughly investigate the relationships between all the features in this area so this could not be established by excavation. If this is a separate feature it appears more like the other large pits, although more linear in form, rather than a ditch but its profile remains very ditch-like.

A stone-filled land drain [1058] ran across the northern corner of the site. It cut through a group of potentially early gullies and cut the fill of a large hollow [1090]. It may have run through the upper fills of [1046] but no cut for this drain could be seen in the section of this feature and the stones present were restricted to the surface, whereas elsewhere the stone fill of the drain was found at considerable depth. It probably also cut through the western edge of pit [1028]. This drain has caused much confusion in making features hard to define or in cutting them off so that their original plan cannot be recorded. The drain was about 0.9m wide at the top but became narrow and steep sided lower down (plate 37). The stones filling it (1050) were up to 0.4m in length, with some placed on edge (plate 38). They included a piece of conglomerate of the sort used to make quern stones and a piece of fossilised coral from the limestone. In some places, though, the stones used were much smaller, and the drain was poorly defined where it cut through other features.

Inside the area defined by ditch [1008] there were several smaller features. A small rectangular feature [1034] measuring 1.29 by 0.51m and 0.21m deep was the closest thing found to a grave (plate 39). Its size would mean that it would have been for a child but there was no stone-lining or any other evidence of the use of this feature a grave. It was aligned north-west to south-east rather than east-west but the alignment of early Christian graves is variable and this was well within the usual variation. However it was not aligned on ditch [1008] and is not central to this, making it highly unlikely to be a grave within a mortuary enclosure. It is also very unlikely that the only grave within a mortuary enclosure would be a child's grave. It is likely that feature [1034] was not a grave, had some other function and was probably unrelated to ditch [1008].

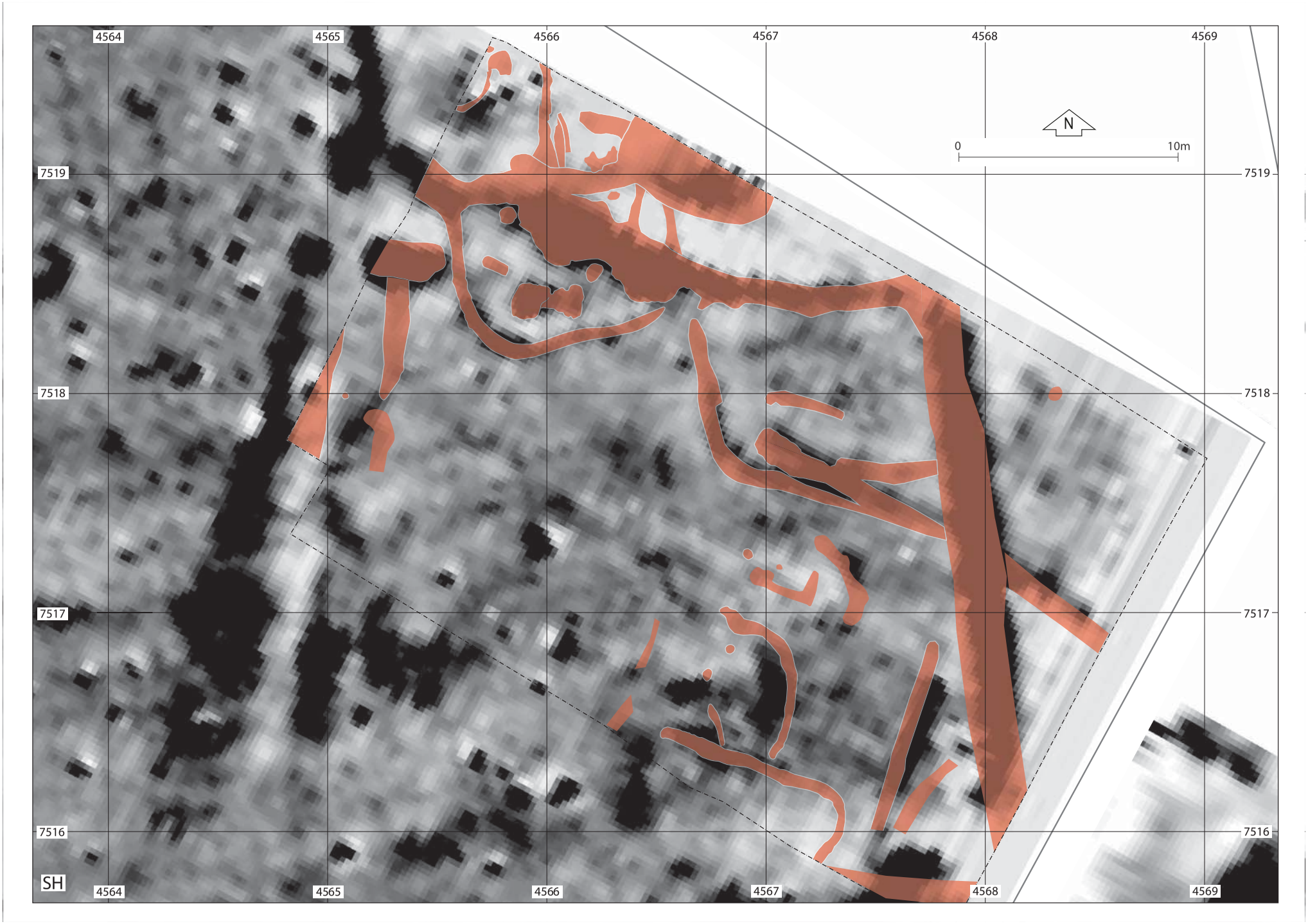


Figure 11. Detail of geophysical survey with outline of features overlaid

Plate 30. Section of sondage through ditch [1019] with fill (1020)

Plate 31. Section of sondage through ditch [1019] with fill (1021)

Plate 32. Sondage into pit [1055]

Plate 33. Sondage into pit [1028]

Plate 34. Half section of pit [1018]

Plate 35. Section of sondage through feature [1046] showing V-shaped profile

Plate 36. Orthomosaic produced from a laser scan made by Alan Roberts of DTM Technologies. This shows the stones (1043) running east from feature [1046]

Plate 37. Section of land drain [1058]

Plate 38. Stones (1050) filling land drain [1058]

Plate 39. Feature [1034] half sectioned

Plate 40. Pit [1032] half sectioned

Plate 41. Hollow [1062] half sectioned

Plate 42. Posthole [1009] fully excavated

Plate 43. Stones (1004) filling posthole [1009]

Plate 44. Stone-capped drain (1066)

Plate 45. Section through stone-capped drain (1066) showing its construction

Plate 46. Section along trench baulk over drain (1066) showing the shallowness of the ploughsoil

Plate 47. Gully [1076]

Plate 48. The end of gully [1076] with gullies [1072] and [1074]

Plate 49. Slabs (1067), possibly forming a surface

Plate 50. Surface of feature [1086] exposed

Plate 51. Land drain [1058] cutting through stony surface (1065)

Plate 52. Pit [1078] and feature [1112]

Plate 53. Slight gully [1011]

A sub-oval pit [1032] measuring 1.7m by 1.4m and 0.44m deep was also located in this area. This had an uneven base with a flat shelf, possibly where it had hit limestone and a deeper hollow on the northern side (plate 40). The sides did not seem steep enough for this to be a posthole and there were no post-packing stones or other evidence that it might have held a post. To the east of this feature was a shallow hollow [1062] that may have been an area of natural erosion but the erosion may possible have been caused by the use of the pit if it was repeatedly approached from the eastern side (plate 41).

One feature that was almost certainly a posthole was [1009], which was a deep, steep sided oval cut, becoming almost circular in its base, which had a flat bottom (plate 42). This feature measured 0.86m by 0.64m and was 0.88m deep. It was filled by large stones (1004) up to 0.3m long many of which were laid flat while some were set near vertically round the edge of the cut. The stones seemed to have been placed to fill the cut as closely as possible (plate 43). The stones were not packing stones as there was no room at all for a post, but the hole was so steep sided and carefully dug that it seems unlikely that it was for any other purpose than as a posthole. It is proposed that the post, which must have been about 0.3m in diameter, was removed and the stone used to fill the hole as completely as possible.

Another possible posthole [1110] was located to the north-west. This was roughly circular and about 0.6m in diameter and about 0.4m deep. It had several medium sized stones within its brown clayey silt fill but nothing that could be firmly identified as packing stones. Its base was irregular and the sides not very steep so it was not entirely convincing as a posthole. Both [1009] and [1110] were so close to the edges of the large pits [1028] and [1055] that they could not have functioned as postholes while the pits were open and they must belong to different phases of activity, with [1009] and [1110] possibly earlier than the pits.

In the very northern corner of the trench was the most complex group of features on the site. A shallow gully [1076] ran almost straight north-south, with its northern end apparently cut by another feature [1092] which followed its line exactly and held a shallow stone drain (1066). The drain was composed of flat, mainly limestone, slabs as capstones resting on small side stones with only a narrow gap underneath for water (plates 44 and 45). This gap was entirely filled with dark silt (1051). This drain had been cut into a very clean pink clay (1052) and the same clay (1040/1091) had been redeposited over some of the slabs, making the drain and especially its cut hard to locate. This drain more closely resembled drains found in Iron Age roundhouses than any field drain and the redeposited clay could possibly have formed part of a clay floor. However the deposits immediately over the drain, including clay (1040), contained post-medieval finds. This may be explained by the shallowness of the topsoil at this point and the probability of mixing caused by ploughing and trampling when the soil is wet (plate 46).

Adjacent to [1076] was another shallow gully [1074] with a deeper, steep sided slot [1072] dug along its eastern side (plates 47 and 48). This slot contained occasional stones that might have been the remains of packing and curved slightly to the west. These features were cut at their southern ends by the land drain [1058]. Also in this corner were other flat slabs ((1067) and (1094)) that did not seem to be set in a cut and did not form capstones for a drain (plate 49). These seemed to form a surface, which partially covers what appeared to be a cut feature, possibly a ditch [1086] (plate 50), but there was not time to investigate what this was. The slabs also had smaller stones (1095) associated with them that may have formed part of the surface. It is probable that this surface was continued to the south by layer (1065). This was a thin and eroded deposit of small stones embedded in the top of the natural clay (plate 51). The anthropogenic origin of these was confirmed by one of the stones being a circular object resembling an unfinished spindlewhorl (SF 172). This surface and the possible ditch [1086] were cut by the land drain [1058] and a large hollow [1090].

In the very corner of the trench was a rather irregular pit [1078] measuring 1.2m by 1.0m and 0.3m deep (plate 52). This had some stones in its base but these were not deliberate enough to be certainly lining stones. Next to this was a very slight circular hollow [1112] containing one stone set on edge and one piece of conglomerate. Running from the southern side of [1078] was a slight curving gully [1011] that proved difficult to follow (plate 53). This had some stones in its fill and ran over some flat stones embedded in the natural. It is likely that this feature was an animal burrow but it could be the slight remains of a more significant feature.

Part of the north-eastern side of the trench was taken up by what appeared to be a roughly oval hollow [1090], which cut through all the features in this area except for the land drain [1058] that was dug through the fill of the hollow. The edges of the hollow were cleaned up and defined on the north-western and south-western sides and partially investigated with small sondages that showed them to be fairly gradually sloping and the base to

Plate 54. Ditch or furrow [1030]

Plate 55. Small posthole [1015]

Plate 56. Boundary ditch [1116]

be at least 0.26m deep, but probably much deeper towards the middle of the feature. The south-eastern side was obscured by a layer of ploughsoil (1016), which there was not sufficient time to remove. The geophysics shows a dark anomaly in this area that may relate to the deeper parts of the hollow and it is suggested that this feature is about 7.5m long (figure 11). The way that this feature truncates other features in the area suggests that it is a deliberately dug feature rather than a natural hollow.

All features along this north-eastern side of the trench were initially obscured by a slightly thicker deposit of ploughsoil than occurred over the rest of this part of the trench, although this deposit was never more than 0.1m deep. In the northern corner it was recorded as (1005) and (1006) and over [1090] as (1016). In all cases it was relatively rich in finds including post mediaeval pot sherds and iron objects, which presumably collected in this slight slope down from the higher gravelly deposits.

Running south from this northern corner were two other slight ditches. Running south from pit [1018] was a straight, very slight feature [1081]. At its northern end it was fairly regular with very gently sloping sides and a flat base, rather confused by roots in places, but further south it was more irregular and poorly-defined. At its deepest it was only 0.12m deep and it faded out at its southern end, however an even more poorly-defined feature [1013] roughly continued its line further south after a gap. Feature [1013] was little more than an area of root disturbance and it was very difficult to define edges. It is likely that these two features were part of some kind of boundary, but one defined by a broad furrow rather than a ditch. Root or animal disturbance seems to have further confused an originally slight feature. This feature ran parallel to a slightly better defined linear feature just visible where it appeared from under the north-western side of the trench. This feature [1030] was over 6m long and up to 0.25m deep. The sides were fairly well-defined and the base was generally flat but with some hollows in it, and this could also be a furrow rather than a ditch (plate 54). It cut through a shallow hollow [1097], which is probably natural. Between [1030] and [1081] was a small posthole [1015], measuring 0.3m by 0.15m and 0.29m deep. Its fill was stony but there were no obvious packing stones (plate 55).

4.4. **Ditches and other features elsewhere on the site**

Running across the eastern corner of the trench was a broad ditch about 2.4m wide [1116] (plate 56). The brown clayey silt fill contained few stones but there was a group of stones on the eastern side of the ditch. Ditch [1116] was not investigated but is typical of a major field boundary ditch. This cut through what appeared to be a straight ditch running north-west to south-east [1121]. On the other side of [1116] this ditch probably continued as [1122], which appeared to cut through the end of ditch [1025]. Ditch [1122] was probably a continuation of [1083], a ditch with a V-shaped profile, about 0.53m deep, that appeared to have a fairly square western terminal (plates 57 and 58). Ditch [1122] seems to have been cut by another ditch [1123]. This relationship was not very clear but reddish clay lumps in the fill of [1123] indicated that this continued through [1122]. Ditch [1123] appeared to continue into a narrow slot investigated by sondages. This slot [1088] was *c*.0.4m wide and up to 0.2m deep. It curved round towards the north and terminated in an area that was not fully investigated (plates 57 and 58). Further excavation would have been necessary to be certain which of these features joined together and what the relationships between them were.

Three ditches were located in the south-eastern corner of the trench ([1048], [1103], and [1105]) with only [1048] investigated. The small sondage dug through this revealed it to be very shallow, only 0.08m deep and about 0.7m wide. A small sub-circular patch of charcoal [1124] in the eastern corner of the site was not investigated.

Plate 57. Section through ditches [1083] and [1088]

Plate 58. Parts of ditches [1083] and [1088] fully excavated

4.5. **Finds**

Summary of finds

Object type	No of items
Bone	2
Ceramic (post medieval)	112
Ceramic (possibly Roman)	7
Flint and chert	31
Copper alloy	63
Iron	100
Lead	36
Unidentified metal	2
Pewter	1
Silver	1
Slag	6
Other stone	9

See appendix I for a more detailed list of finds.

Plate 59. Roman brooch and pin

The majority of the finds are metal objects and the most of those came from the metal-detecting survey. Only 1 metal object came from a deposit that was not topsoil or ploughsoil. Much of the post medieval pottery is from ploughsoil or unstratified contexts and even some of the possibly Roman pottery was picked up from the ploughsoil during the metal detecting survey. All metal-detected finds and significant pottery from the ploughsoil have been located with 3D coordinates so that they can be related to features in the area and their distribution can be studied.

The most important finds include a Roman copper alloy brooch and pin (plate 59), a lead spindlewhorl recovered by metal-detecting (plate 60) and a Roman coin (plate 61).

Plate 60. Roman lead spindlewhorl

Plate 61. Roman coin

Plate 62. Flint scraper

One important find was unfortunately lost. This was a small copper alloy coin from the lower plough soil (1005) above the stone slabs (1067). After discovery the coin was dropped in the grass and could not be found again despite the use of metal-detectors. On initial inspection the coin appeared to be medieval.

Some of the metal finds are of Roman date and it is likely that x-rays of the iron objects will reveal other significant finds.

The post-medieval pottery assemblage is small and unlikely to be very informative but requires recording. There is a small quantity of slag but some of the pieces appear to be furnace lining so its presence may be significant.

There is a small but significant assemblage of flint and chert, most of which is small debitage or struck pebbles but it does include one fine scraper (plate 62). The other stone objects are amongst the most significant as there are two possible hone stones, one from the rectangular enclosure [1008], and a possible unfinished spindlewhorl, from the cobbled surface (1065).

4.6. **Samples**

Only a small number of contexts contained charcoal or the possibility of small artefacts so only seven bulk soil samples were taken. These were from the fills of ditches [1037] and [1039] because slag had been recovered by hand from these features and the samples could test for the presence of fine metal-working debris. The other samples were taken from charcoal-rich deposits, except one from the primary fill of feature [1046], which had some flecks of charcoal but was worth sampling in case any material suitable for dating could be recovered. Details of the samples are given in appendix II.

The bulk soil samples were processed through a floatation tank using a mesh size of 250 microns to capture the floating fraction. The heavy residue was wet sieved through a mesh of 500 microns. Both the flots and the residue were dried and the flots were bagged up for specialist assessment. The residue was sorted by hand to recover remaining ecofacts and any small artefacts. All the samples were checked with strong magnets to collect any magnetic debris, particularly metal-working debris. The finds have been included in the list of finds from the site and in the recommendations for assessment.

4.7. **Site records**

Context sheet	117 sheets
Context register	5 sheets
Digital photographs	195 files
Site drawings	41 drawings on 10 sheets
Photo record sheets	9 sheets
Drawing sheet register	1 sheet
Drawing register	3 sheets
Finds register	4 sheets
Sample register	1 sheet

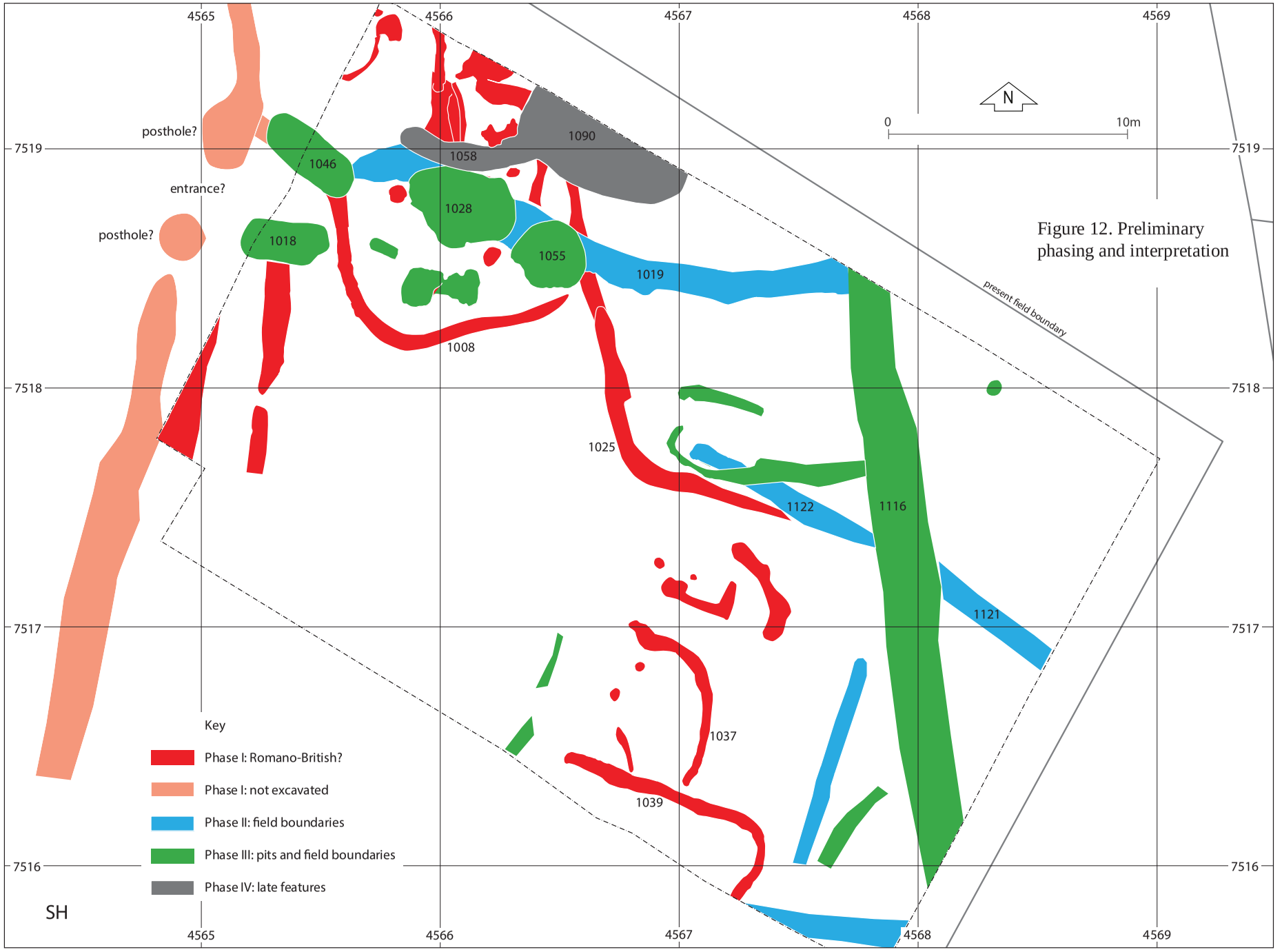


Figure 12. Preliminary phasing and interpretation

5. DISCUSSION

Figure 12

5.1. Possible Romano-British settlement

The interpretation of the archaeology revealed and excavated at Hedd yr Ynys is made difficult by the scarcity of dating evidence from the features themselves and the difficulty in identifying stratigraphic relationships where the fills of many of the features are indistinguishable. It is hoped that study of the finds may help in giving at least an idea of the periods of activity over the site with the distribution of finds from the topsoil perhaps providing some indication of the focus of activity of that date below. Radiocarbon dates may give some general assistance but so few features produced datable material that the problem will not be solved through radiocarbon dating.

The geophysical survey provides very useful additional information to help interpret what was excavated (figure 11). The interpretations given below are preliminary and will perhaps prove impossible to demonstrate securely even once the post-excavation analysis has been completed.

Although not conclusive there is some evidence of other features cutting parts of the two rectangular enclosures ([1008] and [1025]) in the northern part of the site suggesting that these are early in the sequence of the activity. Other features in the northern corner of the trench suggestive of occupation are also in places cut by later features. It is therefore tentatively proposed that the earliest activity on the site was occupation associated with small paddocks. This may have been part of a much larger defended area. The geophysical survey shows a clear linear anomaly running north-north-east to south-south-west just west of the limits of the trench. This was not investigated in the excavation because it was interpreted on the original survey as a geological signal. The excavation has shown the signal to be exactly the same as genuine features such as ditch [1019] and the several large pits in the area. This supports that idea that this anomaly is a ditch. There is a gap in this feature at least 2m wide and each side of the gap is a large circular anomaly. It is suggested that this gap represents an entrance through the ditch and that the circular anomalies are large postholes that would have supported a gate. This can only be tested by excavation but this is a reasonable interpretation of the geophysical evidence. The occupation features lie north-east of the entrance and the rectangular enclosure [1008] lies just inside it but not blocking it. It is proposed that all these features are roughly contemporary. The presence of some Roman period finds, especially the copper alloy brooch found in the topsoil close to the capped drain (1066), leads to the suggestion that this early activity is of Roman period but the character of the features suggests an Iron Age heritage and that this may have been a Romano-British settlement.

The capped drain (1066) might be expected to run inside a roundhouse. The slot [1072] could possibly be the wall slot for a ring-groove roundhouse but its relationship to the other features suggests that it is also an internal drain or gully. It is tempting to see the slabs (1067) and (1094) as the stone base for a clay wall but they do not form a line that can be easily interpreted as a wall and are more likely to be a floor surface inside a building. Whether the cobbles (1065) represent a surface inside or outside a building is hard to determine, but the possible unfinished spindlewhorl found embedded in (1065) adds support to this surface being related to a Romano-British settlement. How the small gully or ditch [1126] relates to this is also unclear due to the extent of damage caused by later features in this area, but it is the only feature that could possibly be interpreted as a drainage gully defining the outside of a roundhouse. Its identification as such is far from certain, especially as the short length exposed appears straight rather than curving. Clay-walled roundhouses frequently leave internal features with no trace of the wall itself, and often have stone-capped drains, so this might be proposed as an interpretation of the features in this northern corner of the trench. The strongest argument against this is the relatively modern finds recovered from immediately over the drain, including from some of the redeposited clay that could have formed part of a floor. The response to this is that the capping of the drain lies only 0.2m below the present surface of the ground and the clay that it is cut into would lead this area to be particularly waterlogged. The introduction of intrusive material by ploughing and trampling wet ground might therefore be considered to be likely.

It is possible that the features [1034] and [1032] and even the postholes [1009] and [1110] might be associated with the early phase of activity but there is no way to prove this. If this was the case then the rectangular enclosure might have been an annexe to a roundhouse in which activities took place.

The similarity of the gullies [1037] and [1039] to [1008] and [1025] suggest that these may also be roughly contemporary. If so the small pits and other activity in this area may also belong to this early phase of activity. It may be possible to test this as some of the features have been sampled and contain charcoal which may include

pieces suitable for radiocarbon dating.

5.2. **Ditch [1019], other ditches and pits**

The length and nature of ditch [1019] is problematic. During the excavation it was considered that [1019] and [1046] could be part of the same ditch, although this would require it to wander a little. The differences in depth and profile argue against this as [1019], where sampled, was no more than 0.35m deep and [1046] was 0.75m deep. The latter feature also had a pronounced V-shaped profile, whereas one section through [1019] was distinctly U-shaped, even if the other was rather more V-shaped. Consideration of the features in plan and particularly a close inspection of the geophysics makes it likely that they were not parts of the same feature and that [1046] was not a ditch but an elongated pit, although how its very narrow, ankle-breaker base, worked in a pit is not clear. The fairly straight northern side of the combined fills of features [1019], [1055] and [1028] suggests that ditch [1019] probably continued as far of pit [1028] where most of it was cut away. It was probably also cut by pit [1055], but this did not entirely cut away the northern side of the ditch. The geophysical survey shows a slight anomaly continuing west of pit [1028], which may be the ditch continuing. Clear edges were followed joining [1046] through to the presumed end of the land drain [1058] but the depth and nature of this feature was not explored. It seems possible that it is the continuation of the land drain but if so it should have cut through the fills of [1046] and been visible in the section of this features, yet nothing identifiable as a stone-filled drain was seen and considering the size and density of the stones elsewhere it would be hard to miss. If ditch [1019] did continue it must have curved quite sharply to the west at its north-western end. The geophysical plot also shows a distinct end to feature [1046] that does not join in to any of the other anomalies. What exactly happens in the area between pit [1028] and feature [1046] can therefore not be explained from current evidence but it seems likely that this is not a continuation of ditch [1019]. It is probable that [1046] cut away the end of ditch [1008] which may have originally curved to join the ditch shown as a geophysical anomaly outside the trench.

The other ditches are presumably agricultural boundaries or drainage with at least two phases of ditches suggested. The date of these is uncertain. Ditch [1116] is large enough to suggest the ditched boundary to an enclosed field but the map evidence currently available does not suggest a boundary in this location. The evidence from the documentary records for an open field over this area suggests that medieval fields would not have enclosed boundaries, although furlongs within the open field would probably have been defined by ditches. Insufficient evidence was gathered to demonstrate whether these ditches were medieval or post medieval in date.

The large pits that probably, although not certainly, cut ditch [1019] were almost certain of post medieval date. They all produced a small number of post medieval pot sherds, mainly from the upper fills of the pits but pit [1018], which was most extensively excavated produced sherds from throughout its fill.

The function of these pits is unknown. They seem not to have been for digging clay or gravel as they did not target good sources of either and pit [1055] was largely dug through limestone. They do not seem to have contained rubbish as the amount of finds from them was small. If domestic rubbish had been dumped in them animal bone would almost certainly have been included and the presence of limestone on the site would have caused the preservation of any bone, yet none was found in these pits. Neither was there any charcoal or ash or other debris. As pit [1055] was over 1.2m deep this represents a considerable effort. There is a slight possibility that this feature was not an anthropogenic pit but a natural sink hole in the limestone. However the presence of [1028] and [1018], which were dug through clay and gravel and could not have been sink holes, suggests that this is not the answer.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1. **Finds**

Metal-working debris

The metal-working assemblage is small with 8 pieces of slag or possible slag, mainly from ditch [1039] and very small amounts of hammerscale recovered from wet sieved soil samples. Some of the pieces of slag resemble furnace lining are included in the assemblage that may indicate working nearby, although the small quantity of material would argue against this. The assemblage will be assessed by Tim Young of GeoArch.

Flint and stone objects

There are 31 items of flint, chert or crystal quartz, many of which are debitage. These require a basic report which will be undertaken by George Smith. The scraper is worth illustrating. The other stone objects will also be studied by George Smith and the two possible hone stones and the unfinished spindlewhorl will be illustrated.

Metal objects
It is best practice to x-ray all iron objects, and in this case this could be an important process as it is likely to identify early objects that cannot be identified due to the extent of corrosion. This process might be expected to increase the number of Roman and medieval finds identified. This would be done by Phil Parkes of Cardiff Conservation Services. Significant iron objects would then require conservation to stabilise them for archiving. The exact finds to require conservation will not be known until they have been x-rayed and studied. The extent of cleaning required would also have to be determined. The conservation would also be carried out by Phil Parkes.

Some of the copper alloy objects will also require conservation and these will be identified in the initial assessment. The Roman brooch is in quite poor condition and is clearly in need of conservation.

Quita Mould of Barbican Research Associates will carry out an assessment of all the metal objects. She will provide a basic record of all the metal finds as part of the assessment process and will recommend those the need more detailed recording and illustration.

The assessment will comprise:

- update of provisional find identifications as necessary
- selection of finds significant to the interpretation of the site or of intrinsic merit
- selection of items for any investigative conservation that may be required
- a basic record of all the metal finds for the site archive

She will then provide a summary text to inform the site narrative and for use in the final publication.

Post-medieval pottery
There are 112 sherds of post-medieval pottery including pieces of clay pipes. Jonathan Goodwin of Stoke-on-Trent City Renewal Services will catalogue and describe the pottery.

Roman pottery
There are 7 sherds of pottery (including one from the 2012 metal-detecting survey) that may be of Roman date. These will be studied by Gill Dunn, freelance Roman pottery specialist, to confirm their date and origins.

Bone
There is one bone and one fragment of tooth as well as a small quantity of tiny burnt bone fragments. The assemblage is so small that the information that it can contain is limited but Sian James will identify to species those pieces that are large enough for identification and will catalogue the assemblage.

6.2. Charcoal and charred plant remains
There are 7 samples of charred plant remains that have already been processed by floatation using a 250 micron mesh. These samples will be analysed by Rosalind McKenna, and she will also select items for radiocarbon dating in consultation with Jane Kenney to identify suitable species from appropriate contexts. It is assumed that the samples will require no more than assessment level analysis, but if something of particular interest is found full analysis may be required of one or more of the samples.

6.3. Radiocarbon dates
The number of radiocarbon dates that can be obtained is limited by the availability of suitable material in the flots. However the main limit is the number of samples taken. Few of the features contained charred material so only 7 bulk soil samples were taken. Of these one, from the basal fill of feature [1046] contains hardly any charcoal and is unlikely to produce suitable dating material. Two samples are from different parts of the same gully and only one would be dated. It is therefore likely that 5 of the samples would be considered for dating with two dates to be obtained from each sample to check for contamination and mixing, giving a maximum of 10 dates. However some of the features are isolated and of limited value for dating and the cost of 10 dates is hard to justify when this will lead to only a general indication of the date of some of the activity on site. It is therefore proposed to choose 3 samples to be dated with 2 dates each depending on the charred material available in them and their importance to the interpretation of the site. This will give 6 radiocarbon dates for the site. If these all appear similar or otherwise suggest that more dating would be worthwhile then additional dates will be proposed in the final stage of analysis.

A decision on how many dates are obtained will not be made until the charred plant remains from the soil samples have been analysed. The decision will then be taken in consultation with Cadw, and it may be decided that it is not worthwhile obtaining any dates on these samples.

6.4. **Further excavation**

Clearly there is considerable information still to be obtained from this site. The current excavation aimed largely to test the geophysics results and sample features found. Much more excavation would be required to establish the full character of many of the features and their relationships to each other. In particular investigation of the ditch and entrance suggested by the geophysical survey and how that relates to the features revealed in the current excavation would be valuable.

The support of the landowner would again make it a suitable location for future volunteer excavations, but it may be worth waiting for the results of the post-excavation assessment and radiocarbon dates to provide some confirmation of the assumed Romano-British date of the settlement before committing to further work.

As a Cadw grant aided community excavation this site has proved to be ideally situated but work in the past few years has been concentrated on Anglesey and it may be decided that future projects of this sort should focus on sites in other parts of the GAT region. Renewed excavation at Hedd yr Ynys may therefore not fit into other aims of community excavations. However further work here would be recommended if funding was available for it.

6.5. **Report, Publication and Dissemination**

Once the results of the analyses proposed above have been obtained a full report will be produced for Cadw and for inclusion in the HER. The report will include a full site narrative with appropriate drawings, including selected sections and detailed plans of features. There will be a discussion on the interpretation and significance of the site and comparisons other sites in the area and parallels elsewhere. All the specialist reports will be included and their results will be discussed in the main text. When a final report has been produced this will be converted into a publication report, to be published in the Transactions of the Anglesey Antiquarian Society. A preliminary note will be produced this year for publication in that journal.

To ensure a wider audience it is proposed to also write a summary report aimed at a more popular level that can be made available on the GAT website and sent out to volunteers that worked on the site and other interested parties. This report would be translated into Welsh. There will also be a talk about the site given in the local area, where the summary report will also be distributed to local people. The talk will be held in a prominent venue in Llangefni and will be advertised well in advance in the papur bro, Y Glorian, in other local media, by informing the volunteers who worked on the site and through social media.

6.6. **Archiving**

The artefacts from the excavations belong to the landowners, Wynne and Julia Morgan. Their agreement will be obtained in writing for the finds to be donated to Oriel Ynys Môn. The finds will be boxed in appropriate archive quality boxes, an accession number will be obtained and used to label the boxes.

The digital archive, with appropriate metadata will be submitted to the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) who can provide long term active curation of the digital files as well as access to the public.

The site records on paper and drawing film will be held by Anglesey Archives. A copy of the final report will be submitted to the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record (HER) and will be made available on the Archwilio website (www.cofiadurcahcymru.org.uk) as well as on the GAT website (www.heneb.co.uk).

7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The Trust would like to extend to particular thanks to Wyn and Julia Morgan, the owners of the land, for their permission to carry out the work and for their toleration and support throughout the excavations and the Open Day. Julia and her friends are thanked for their excellent tea room run during the Open Day.

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9. APPENDIX I: List of finds

Find No	Context No	Mate-rial	Description	No of items
1	1001	iron	iron object	1
2	1001	iron	nail	1
3	1001	iron	nail	1
4	1001	iron	iron object	1
5	1001	iron	nail	1
6	1001	iron		1
7	1001	iron	nut	1
8	1001	iron		1
9	1001	cu alloy	bent rod	1
10	1001	iron	iron objects	2
11	1001	iron	iron object	1
12	1001	iron	bolt	1
13	1001	iron	nail	1
14	1001	iron		1
15	1001	iron	wire	1
16	1001	iron	iron object	1
17	1001	iron	iron object	1
18	1001	lead?	object possibly lead	1
19	1001	iron	nail	1
20	1001	iron	nail?	1
21	1001	iron	nail	1
22	1001	iron	bolt	1
23	1001	iron	nail	1
24	1001	cu alloy	Teddy Tail League badge	1
25	1001	lead	lead object	1
26	1001	pot	post med sherd	1
27	1001	iron	iron object	1
28	1001	cu alloy	purse bar??	1
29	1001	iron	nail	1
30	1001	iron	iron objects	3
31	1001	iron	iron objects	3
32	1001	cu alloy	buckle	1
33	1001	iron	nail	1
34	1001	cu alloy	coin?	1
35	1001	iron	iron object	1
36	1001	silver	dime	1
37	1001	iron	nail	1
38	1001	iron	nail	1
39	1001	lead	lead weight, Roman?	1
40	1001	iron	nails	2
41	1002	iron	iron object	1
42	1001	iron	iron objects	2
43	1001	lead	lead pellet	1

Find No	Context No	Material	Description	No of items
44	1002	iron	iron objects	2
45	1002	cu alloy	terret?	1
46	1002	iron	nail	1
47	1002	iron	nail	2
48	1002	iron	nail and iron objects	3
49	1002	iron	iron objects	3
50	1002	pot	pot sherd, Roman?	1
51	1002	ceramic	tile frag	1
52	1002	iron	iron object	1
53	1002	iron	nail	1
54	1002	cu alloy	penny	1
55	1002	ceramic	pot sherd, Roman?	1
56	1002	flint	flint scraper	1
60	1001	iron	iron object	1
61	1001	iron	iron object	1
62	1001	iron	iron object	1
63	1001	lead	seal matrix?	1
64	1001	iron	nail	1
65	1001	iron	iron object	1
66	1001	iron	hook	1
67	1001	iron	iron object	1
68	1001	cu alloy	bullet case end	1
69	1001	cu alloy	Roman brooch	1
70	1001	iron	iron object	1
71	1001	iron	nail	1
72	1001	iron	nail	1
73	1001	iron	iron object	1
74	1001	lead	weight	1
75	1001	lead	lead object	1
76	1001	cu alloy	Roman brooch pin	1
77	1001	cu alloy	buckle	1
78	1001	iron	tip of plough share	1
79	1001	iron	nail	1
80	1001	cu alloy	button	1
81	1001	cu alloy	button	1
82	1001	lead	lead bag seal?	1
83	1001	iron	nail?	1
84	1001	cu alloy	rod with screw thread	1
85	1001	iron	iron object	1
86	1001	cu alloy?	broken metal disc?	1
87	1001	lead	pipe section	1
88	1001	lead	small lump	1
89	1001	lead	piece of lead	1
90	1001	iron	cold chisel and iron object	2

Find No	Context No	Mate-rial	Description	No of items
91	1001	iron	cold chisel?	1
92	1001	cu alloy	fastening	1
93	1001	iron	nail?	1
94	1001	cu alloy	coin	1
95	1001	cu alloy	dog cut from cu alloy sheet	1
96	1001	iron	blade?	1
97	1001	lead	lead blob	1
98	1001	iron	large nail	1
100	1001	Iron	Fe obj	1
101	1001	Lead	Lead spindlewhorl	1
102	1001	cu alloy	coin	1
103	1005	stone	hone stone?	1
104	1001	cu alloy	med coin (lost)	1
105	1001	lead	lead disc	1
106	1001	lead	folded sheet	1
107	1001	cu alloy	decorative piece	1
108	1001	cu alloy	cu alloy object	1
109	1001	lead	section of pipe?	1
110	1001	lead	lead object	1
111	1001	cu alloy	cu alloy object	1
112	1001	cu alloy	Victorian penny	1
113	1001	cu alloy	disc	1
114	1001	cu alloy	button	1
115	1001	lead	lead lump	1
116	1001	lead	lead disc	1
117	1001	cu alloy	button	1
118	1001	lead	lead strip	1
119	1001	cu alloy	penny	1
120	1001	lead	bent lead sheet	1
121	1001	cu alloy	penny	1
122	1001	lead	lead object	1
123	1001	cu alloy	chain	1
124	1001	lead	lead strip	1
125	1002	flint	flint flake	1
126	1001	lead	musket ball	1
127	1007	stone	stone obj with pyramidal end	1
128	1001	metal	pointed object	1
129	1001	lead	pipe section?	1
130	1001	lead	mass of lead	1
131	1001	lead	mass of lead	1
132	1001	cu alloy	thin ring	1
133	1001	cu alloy	cu alloy object	1
134	1001	cu alloy	sheet fragments	1
135	1001	cu alloy	cu alloy object	1

Find No	Context No	Mate-rial	Description	No of items
136	1001	lead	bent ring	1
137	1001	iron	large nail?	1
138	1001	cu alloy	button	1
139	1001	cu alloy	buckle	1
140	1001	iron		1
141	1001	cu alloy	keyhole plate	1
142	1001	cu alloy	cu alloy object	1
143	1001	iron	handle with 2 other objects	3
144	1001	cu alloy	button	1
145	1001	iron	ox-shoe?	1
146	1001	cu alloy	buckle	1
147	1001	lead	washer	1
148	1001	lead	object with 1914 marked on it	1
149	1001	lead	lead object	1
150	1001	cu alloy	buckle	1
151	1001	cu alloy	fork	1
152	1001	cu alloy	button	1
153	1002	ceramic	pot sherd, Roman?	1
154	1001	pewter	riding crop end?	1
155	1002	ceramic	spindlewhorl?	1
156	1040	metal	metal objects	1
157	1002	flint	flint debitage	1
158	1047	stone	rock crystal and flint flake	1
160	1001	lead	cut piece	1
161	1001	cu alloy	disc	1
162	1001	iron	penknife	1
163	1001	cu alloy	badge	1
164	1001	lead	lead lump	1
165	1001	cu alloy	buckle	1
166	1001	cu alloy	coin	1
167	1001	iron	penknife	1
168	1001	cu alloy	button	1
169	1001	lead	mass of lead	1
170	1001	lead	bent piece	1
171	1001	cu alloy	button and other object	2
172	1065	stone	unfinished spindlewhorl?	1
173	1084	stone	pecked stone	1
174	1057	chert	shattered chert	1
175	1002	cu alloy	Roman coin	1
176	1053	slag	furnace lining?	1
177	1001	flint	struck pebble	1
178	1000	ceramic	pot sherd, Roman?, from spoil heap	1
179	1001	cu alloy	coin?	1
180	1002	flint	flint pebble	1

Find No	Context No	Mate-rial	Description	No of items
181	1038	iron/slag	iron object or slag/iron working debris	1
182	1038	slag	furnace lining?	1
183	1038	chert	piece of chert, possibly worked	1
184	1056	stone	quern frags	2
185	1050	stone	possible hammerstone	1
186	1061	stone	chert and rock crystal	5
187	1006	iron	iron objects	5
188	1006	pot	post med pot and glass	14
189	1022	flint	flint debitage	1
190	1024	flint	flint debitage	1
191	1063	slag	furnace lining?	2
192	1051	ceramic	clay pipe stem	1
193	1031	flint	flint debitage	3
194	1031	pot	pot sherd	1
195	1068	chert	chert and rock crystal	2
196	1027	pot	post med pot sherds	4
197	1017	pot	post med pot sherds	10
198	1017	flint	flint piece	1
199	1017	stone	piece of slate	1
200	1016	pot	post med pot sherds	3
201	1016	stone	chert flake and quartz	2
202	1006	bone	bone	1
203	1040	pot	post med pot sherd	1
204	1005	pot	post med pot sherd	17
205	1005	iron	iron objects	12
206	1005	slag	slag	2
207	1000	pot	post med pot sherds	47
208	1000	cu alloy	metal detector finds from spoil heap	11
209	1002	pot	post med pot sherds	12
210	1002	flint	flint bits	7
211	1002	stone	stone with a hole	1
212	1012	pot	pot sherd, Roman?	1
213	1082	bone	tooth	1
538	1001	lead	folded disc of lead	1
552	1001	ceramic	pot sherd, Roman?	1

10. APPENDIX II: List of bulk soil samples and methodology of processing the samples

Sample No.	Context No.	Context description	Total Weight (kg)	Volume (L)	% of deposit sampled	Date Processed	Notes
01	1051	Fill of stone-capped drain (1066)	9	8		15/08/2016	Some charcoal and root material
02	1063	Fill of small pit [1064]	13.7	15	100	15/08/2016	Abundant charcoal flecks and pieces (plus root material)
03	1068	Fill of gully/ ditch [1039]	7.1	7	<5	17/08/2016	Root material, charcoal flecks & pieces
04	1045	Primary fill of feature [1046]	6.3	7	<5	15/08/2016	Hardly any charcoal at all
05	1100	Fill of small pit/ hollow [1101]	5.6	7	100	17/08/2016	Abundant charcoal flecks and pieces (plus root material)
06	1099	Charcoal patch cut by ditch [1037]	7.5	8	50	17/08/2016	Root material, some charcoal pieces
07	1038	Fill of ditch/ gully [1039]	9.7	8.5	<5	17/08/2016	Root material, few charcoal pieces.

11. APPENDIX III: List of contexts

Context number	Type	Description	Interpretation	Dimensions
1001	Layer	Dark brown slightly malleable silt with occasional small stones	Topsoil	Depth: 0.15m
1002	Layer	Mid brown clayey silt with a few stones, 0.05m deep NW end of the site, getting slightly deeper at E end.	Plough soil	Depth: 0.2m max
1003	Layer	Pale yellow silty clay containing small and medium stones, occasional patches of grey and red brown clay.	Natural boulder clay	
1004	Fill	Deposit of large sub-angular and occasional sub-rounded stones (up to 0.3m length) in malleable mid brown silty clay.	Fill of posthole [1009]. Fairly deliberately placed stones laid flat, possibly placed to fill hole after the removal of a post.	
1005	Layer	Dark brown fairly malleable clayey silt with very few stones	Lower part of shallow plough soil over eastern drain.	Depth: c. 0.05m
1006	Layer	Dark brown friable clayey silt, c. 20% small stones and gravel	Lower part of plough soil/ upper ditch fill. Dip from NW corner to NE side of trench caused plough soil to be deeper.	Depth: 0.1m
1007	Fill	Dark brown slightly malleable clayey silt, occasional stones and c.10% gravel.	Fill of rectangular enclosure ditch [1008].	Depth: 0.13m
1008	Cut	Shallow ditch running N to E with vertical inner edge, gradual sloping outer edge a flat base, with a neatly curved corner.	Rectangular enclosure ditch as seen on geophysics.	Length: c. 14.6m Breadth: 0.6m Depth: 0.13 – 0.35m
1009	Pit	Sub-circular, slightly oval shaped pit. Sloping sides at the top, vertical towards the flat base with a slight under cut.	Likely to be a post hole due to neatly dug feature, circular and flat bottomed. Presumed to be packed with stones after post removal.	Length: 0.86m Breadth: 0.64m Depth: 0.88m
1010	Fill	Dark brown compact clayey silt, few stones, 4 flat stones at N end (up to 0.15m in length).	Fill of gully [1011].	Depth: 0.05m
1011	Cut	Gently curving narrow gully, with poorly defined irregular sides and base, broader and rounded at the end containing stones.	Slight and indistinct gully.	Breadth: 0.13m Depth: 0.05m
1012	Fill	Mid brown clayey silt, 10% small and medium stones with patches of red-brown clay within.	Fill of [1013].	Depth: 0.12m
1013	Cut	Irregular linear feature, steep sides in places, undulating base, diffuse edges, confused by natural projecting within this line.	Feature largely caused by root activity, but is on the line of a slight ditch, possibly part of feature [1081].	Breadth: c.0.7m Depth: 0.12m max
1014	Fill	Friable grey-brown silt, c. 20% small – medium stones concentrated towards the centre of the feature.	Fill of [1015] – one of the stones in the top is mill-stone conglomerate.	Length: 0.3m Breadth: 0.15m Depth: 0.29m
1015	Cut	Sub-circular cut with near vertical sides and rounded base	Possible small post hole.	Length: 0.3m Breadth: 0.15m Depth: 0.29m
1016	Layer	Dark brown slightly clayey silt with occasional small stones.	Deposit at NE trench edge obscuring cut [1090] and covering stones of stone-filled drain [1058].	
1017	Fill	Diffuse loose soft mid brown clayey silt with occasional angular stones and sub rounded pebbles (up to 0.25m). Has occasional charcoal and a few pieces of slipware.	Fill of [1018].	Depth: 0.85m

Context number	Type	Description	Interpretation	Dimensions
1018	Cut	Elongated sub-circular with curved edges, sharp vertical side and flat base, though truncated by plough.	Large probably oval pit, stone (step like) left in situ midway up SE slope.	Length: 2.45m Breadth: 1.9m Depth: 0.85m
1019	Cut	Linear feature rather wandering in plan, with gradual – steep sides, concave break at v-shaped base. Cut into limestone bedrock (1026).	Possible "defensive" V-profiled enclosure ditch, probably same as [1046].	Length: >11m Breadth: c. 1.4m Depth: up to 0.35m
1020	Fill	Plastic medium dark grey-brown silty sandy clay with frequent medium gravel and some cobbles (<0.12m). A few pieces of unworked chert recovered from the deposit.	Fill of E facing section from ditch [1019].	Depth: 0.32m
1021	Fill	Plastic medium dark-grey brown sandy silty clay with frequent gravel and cobbles.	Fill of W facing section from [1019], deposit similar to (1021) though no chert,	Depth: 0.35m
1022	Fill	Grey brown rather friable silt with c. 20% small angular and sub-angular stones.	Fill of ditch [1023]	Depth: 0.1m
1023	Cut	Narrow, shallow ditch with fairly steep sides, flat base shallow rounded terminus at E end. Possibly truncated. W end not investigated, stones <0.3m long within.	Regular ditch or gully. Possible posthole hat W end?	Breadth: 0.48m Depth: 0.1m
1024	Fill	Dark grey silty with occasional stones, becoming more clayey to the N with a pink-red hue.	Fill of [1025]	Depth: 0.16m
1025	Cut	Linear feature with steep sides and flat base, running E – W then turning rounded corner orienting N-S.	Ditch with straight sections and curving corner	Breadth: 0.5m Depth: 0.18m
1026	Natural	Broken up surface of limestone bedrock, cracked and eroded appearing almost like pebbles.	Limestone bedrock	
1027	Fill	Brown clayey silt with c.10% up to 0.15m in length.	Fill of pit [1028], with stones 1043 over fill of pit.	Depth: 0.72m
1028	Cut	Very large irregular sub-oval pit, side exposed slopes at c.45˚.	Very large pit, impossible to see relationship where the edge cuts to ditch.	Depth: 0.72m
1029	Fill	Grey-brown clayey silt, groups of stones <0.15m long.	Fill of ditch [1030]	Depth: 0.25m
1030	Cut	Linear feature running c. N-S with steep sides and a flat base with some hollows in it.	Straight ditch.	Length: >6m Breadth: >1.9m Depth: 0.25m max
1031	Fill	Brown clayey silt with occasional small and medium gravel, more clayey and stony at the sides and base.	Fill of pit [1032]	Depth: 0.44m
1032	Cut	Sub-oval pit with variable sides, steep and gradual in places with an irregular rounded base cutting into gravel, clay and limestone (S side).	Pit with hollow in base, it is probable that [1032] cuts into [1062] but impossible to prove relationship.	Length: 1.7m Breadth: 1.4m Depth: 0.44m
1033		No 1033 given out, missed in context register.		
1034	Cut	Rectangular cut aligned SE-NW, steep sides, slight step E end, flat base with slight undulation and stones sticking out.	Small grave-shaped feature, no evidence of cist or lining	Length: 1.29 Breadth: 0.51 Depth: 0.21
1035	Fill	Brown clayey silt with occasional small stones, medium ones at the base.	Fill of [1034]	Depth: 0.21
1036	Fill	Dark grey-brown clayey silt with occasional small stones	Fill of [1037]	Depth: 0.18m max
1037	Cut	Gulley running straight then curving, petering out at ends with steep sides and irregular base with some projecting stones and agglomerations. NW end vague and irregular. Peters out before reaching [1039].	Long curving gully.	Breadth: 0.38m Depth: 0.18m max
1038	Fill	Dark grey-brown sandy silty clay, numerous small and medium stones lying layered at upper part of fill, some flat.	Stony fill of [1039], where it goes into the baulk.	Depth: 0.2m

Context number	Type	Description	Interpretation	Dimensions
1039	Cut	Straight linear running c. E-W, curving neatly to run S, vertical sides with a v-shaped base with a "shelf" along N side.	Neatly dug ditch forming the corner of an enclosure.	Breadth: 0.6m Depth: 0.2m
1040	Layer	Soft red-orange brown, variable from silty clay to clay with a few small stones. Pure clay backfill in places.	Deposit covering slabs of drain (1066), possibly forming a floor surface with 1067 and 1094.	Depth: 0.1m
1041	Fill	Dark grey-brown clayey silt with very few stones and occasional charcoal flecks.	Fill of small pit [1042]	Depth: 0.12m
1042	Cut	Circular pit with gradually sloping sides, curving gradually into flat base.	Small pit	Depth: 0.12m
1043	Fill	Brown clayey silt containing numerous stones up to 0.3m long. Conglomerate of stones seem to form a line along top of ditch [1046].	Line of stones. Stones may be independent of the ditch fill, certainly deposited when the ditch was mostly full.	Depth: c.0.2m
1044	Fill	Brown silty clay with occasional small and medium stones.	Main fill of ditch [1046]	Depth: 0.6m
1045	Fill	Grey-brown silty clay with charcoal flecks, several large stones (<0.2m), gravel and some smaller stones.	Primary fill of ditch [1046]	Depth: 0.17m
1046	Cut	V-profile ditch sloping at c.45° with slight step on S side, Narrow base, possible an ankle-breaker (0.2m wide and c.0.15m deep).	Possible defensive ditch or enclosure ditch, rather wandering in plan.	Depth: 0.75m
1047	Fill	Dark grey brown clayey-silt, slightly gritty with occasional small stones.	Fill of ditch [1048].	Depth: 0.08m
1048	Cut	Severely truncated slight ditch/furrow, very shallow with gradually sloping sides and flat base.	Slight ditch/furrow, very difficult to distinguish as cuts into (1098)	Breadth: 0.7m Depth: 0.08m
1049		Renumbered as 1067		
1050	Fill	Brown clayey silt with densely packed c. 50% large sub-angular stones (<0.4m), occasional small stones and coral from limestone.	Fill of land drain [1058]	Depth: c.0.9m
1051	Fill	Soft dark grey clayey silt with no inclusions, clean. Fairly pure silt presumably natural silting of the drain.	Fill of drain [1066]	Depth: 0.03m
1052	Layer	Firm dark red/brown clay without inclusions, very clean natural.	Natural clay underneath 1066	
1053	Fill	Dark grey clayey silt with occasional small stones	Fill of [1039] in middle sondage.	Depth: 0.18m
1054	Fill	Firm mid-dark reddish brown silty clay, occasional stone inclusions <0.01mm and charcoal flecks.	Fill of [1055].	Depth: 0.5m
1055	|Cut	Semi-circular feature with curving slopes, vertical sides and with an uneven base, possible deeper cut towards centre of feature (undug). Probably part of a large sub-circular pit.	Large oval pit, likely cutting into ditch. Impossible to see in plan to determine relationship.	Depth: c. 1.2m
1056		Small patch of stones at possible junction of features, no more than 0.1m, one possibly a piece of quern stone.	Stones maybe in edge of ditch [1019], seemingly cutting into ditch [1055]. Where it ends is possibly cut away by ditch [1028].	Depth : 0.08m
1057	Layer	Red-brown gravel with clay matrix, c.20% small stones with occasional medium stones up to 0.3m long. Some of the larger stones lie fairly flat and are suggestive of a feature, but are actually embedded in the natural.	Glacial gravels overlying boulder clay.	Depth: 0.08 – 0.6m
1058	Cut	Linear feature curving at W end, vertical sides and flat base at lower part, though upper sides seem to gently slope and cut into [1056]. Broader at top than base with rounded W end cutting through gravel (1057).	Land drain	Depth: c.0.9m
1059	Fill	Frim mid-dark yellowish brown silty clay with occasional stone inclusions. Similar texture to (1054) and (1060).	Fill of [1055].	Depth: 0.2m max

Context number	Type	Description	Interpretation	Dimensions
1060	Fill	Firm mid-dark reddish brown silty clay with occasional charcoal. Nearly identical to (1054) in colour and texture, similar to (1059) but darker in colour.	Fill of [1055}.	Depth: 0.7m
1061	Fill	Firm drown silty clay, <5% small stones. Chert fragments and small quartz crystal recovered.	Fill of [1062].	Depth: 0.15m
1062	Cut	Very irregularly shaped feature, somewhat rounded, brown clay at base, undulating clay sides. Orientating E-W.	Shallow hollow – presumably natural but possibly related to erosion caused by activity near [1032].	Depth: 0.15m
1063	Fill	Variable dark brown silty clay with frequent charcoal inclusions.	Charcoal-rich fill of [1064].	Depth: 0.7m
1064	Cut	Small sub-circular very shallow pit with gradually sloping sides and flat base	Charcoal-filled "pit" cut into small patch of brown clayey silt and into edge of pale yellow-grey clay.	Diameter: 0.51m Depth: 0.07m
1065	Layer	Small patch of generally angular small stones embedded into natural.	Possible cobbled surface.	Depth: 0.06m
1066	Structure	Stone drain with flat limestone capping stones supported on a ledge of upright side stones. Stones set in a neatly shaped cut terminating abruptly with vertical stones. Drain slopes toward N, near a stream.	Shallow drain at the base of asymmetrical v-shaped cut.	Breadth: 0.5m Depth: 0.12m
1067		A series of flat slabs typically 0.3 – 0.4m long laid to form a level surface. Various stone types.	Series of slabs appearing to form a part of a surface perhaps along with 1094 and 1040.	Length: >1.2m Breadth: 0.6m Depth: 0.08m
1068	Fill	Dark grey-brown clayey silt with some small stones.	Fill of ditch [1039]	Depth: 0.2m
1069		Renumbered as 1091, see 1091 for description etc.		
1070	Fill	Grey-brown clayey silt with c. 30% large angular and sub-angular stones up to 0.26m long. Stones sloping on sides not positioned deliberately.	Fill of N part of [1008] containing stones.	Depth:0.35m
1071	Fill	Firm friable orange brown clayey silt with occasional stones up to 10cm long. Fill undistinguishable from that of wider hollow 1073.	Fill of slot 1072	Depth: 0.15m
1072	Cut	Linear feature with sharp slope breaks, slightly concave sides and base.	Shallow irregular v-profiled slot cut into base of [1074].	Breadth: 0.16m Depth: 0.15
1073	Fill	Firm mid orange brown clayey silt with occasional stones.	Fill of [1074], relationship with 1072 hard to determine	Depth: 0.1m
1074	Cut	Irregular hollow with steep sides and flat base running N-S towards stone slab but appearing to peter out.	An irregular wider linear hollow	Breadth: 0.7m Depth: 0.1m
1075	Fill	Firm mid-orange brown clayey silt with patches of red-brown clay, purplish sand and flecks of yellow mottled sandstone.	Fill of [1076].	Depth: 0.12m
1076	Cut	Irregular linear feature with rounded profile, orientating N-S with a flat base and fairly sloping sides. Slopes to S.	Wide shallow hollow linear, cut through [1092] – (1040)/(1091).	Breadth: 0.6 Depth: 0.12
1077	Fill	Grey clayey silt, patches of pale yellowish grey clay near top with some medium stones up to 0.2m long pressed into cut base.	Fill of [1078].	Depth: 0.3m
1078	Cut	Rather irregular circular pit with steep and sloping sides and stones in base. Not fully exposed as stones left in base for recording.	Irregular shaped pit.	Length: 1.2m Breadth: 1m Depth: 0.3m
1079	Layer	Orange-brown clayey silt with few stones.	Natural orange silt over SW part of site.	
1080	Fill	Brown clayey silt with few stones.	Fill of [1081] – probably cut by 1018, though no firm evidence.	Depth: 0.12m

Context number	Type	Description	Interpretation	Dimensions
1081	Cut	Shallow, straight linear feature with very gently sloping sides and a flat base, rather confused by roots in places, possibly truncated.	Possibly a boundary, but rather shallow for a ditch.	Length: 5.5m Breadth: 1.1m Height: 0.12m
1082	Fill	Brown clayey silt with lens of pale silt in S, sparse stone inclusions though increase at base.	Fill of ditch [1083], difficult to see if 1088 cuts this.	Depth: 0.53m
1083	Cut	V-shaped profile becoming shallower and end in rounded terminus at NW, vertical N end with gradually sloping sides in S and narrow base.	Ditch cut into bedrock.	Breadth: 0.77m Depth: 0.53m
1084	Fill	Grey brown silty clay with charcoal flecks and occasional small stones but largely filled with SF173.	Fill of [1085].	Depth: 0.08m
1085	Cut	Shallow sub-circular hollow in pale clay with sloping sides and rounded base.	Slight hollow, just large enough to hold SF173.	Diameter: c.0.3m Depth: 0.08m
1086	Cut	Wide linear feature running approx. E/W. Not sectioned.	Seems to be straight ditch-like cut.	Breadth: 0.8m
1087	Fill	Brown clay silt with flecks of decayed orange stone, NW end has a quite high portion of small stones.	Fill of [1088]	Depth: c.0.2m max
1088	Cut	Fairly narrow gully with steep sides and flat base curving at NW axis, running into un-excavated area with fairly large stones.	Gully or slot of unknown function.	Breadth: c.0.4m Depth: c.0.2m max
1089	Fill	Dark brown clayey silt with occasional stones, containing 19th Century pottery.	Fill of [1090].	Depth: >0.26m
1090	Cut	Large roughly oval hollow, only fully defined on NW and SW sides, NE part under the baulk and SE part confused by overlying deposit (1016). Length defined largely by geophys signal. Where exposed the sides are fairly gradually sloping; the base was not seen.	Hollow or very large pit.	Length: c7.5m Depth: >0.26m
1091	Fill	Layer of firm red-brown redeposited clay over parts of drain (1066). Similar to natural red clay in this area.	Redeposited clay over parts of drain (1066)	Depth: 0.1m
1092	Cut	Linear feature with rounded corners and gradually sloping sides with a sharp break to a flat base, orientated EW.	Cut for drain (1066)	Breadth: 0.5m Depth: 0.12m
1093	Fill	Hard-friable, mid brown gritty silty clay, 30% small stones 0.02 – 0.06m.	Fill of [1086], not investigated.	Breadth: 0.8m
1094	Structure	Three large green stone slabs (<0.5m) lying on surface of 1093, tilting as though they have subsided into a matrix.	Possibly part of surface with 1067 and features associated with [1066].	Length: 1.1m Breadth: 0.4m
1095	Layer	Firm-friable dark orange-brown gritty silty clay with variable angular stone inclusions (0.08 – 0.15m), up to 80% stones towards the NW side (not investigated further).	Mixed deposit of abundant angular stones, possibly plough-damaged stony surface.	
1096	Fill	Brown clayey silt with very few stones, similar but slightly browner that 1029.	Fill of hollow 1097.	Depth: 0.07m
1097	Cut	One curving side of possibly sub-oval feature with gradually sloping sides and flat base, cut away by ditch [1030].	Sub-oval very shallow hollow, probable natural hollow.	Length: c.2.3m Breadth: >0.77m Depth: 0.07m
1098	Layer	Dark grey-brown silt in SE corner of site containing small stones, appearing rather shallow in places. Depth not fully investigated.	Possible pond deposit, wet area?	Depth: <0.06m
1099	Layer	Small sub-oval patches of charcoal in dark brown clayey silt with small pebbles and patches of burnt reddish clay.	Patches of charcoal cut by ditch 1037.	Depth: 0.06m
1100	Fill	Dark brown clayey silt with frequent charcoal patches and lenses widely distributed.	Charcoal fill of [1101]	Depth: 0.07m
1101	Cut	Small near circular hollow/pit, very shallow with fairly steep sides and flat base.	Slight hollow or pit.	Length: 0.46m Breadth: 0.42m Depth: 0.07m

Context number	Type	Description	Interpretation	Dimensions
1102	Fill	Dark grey-brown clayey silt, similar to (1074)	Fill of ditch [1103] – not excavated.	Breadth: 0.75m
1103	Cut	Slight ditch – hard to see in 1098, no terminal visible.	Ditch – not investigated.	Breadth: 0.75m
1104	Fill	Dark grey-brown clayey silt with numerous stones.	Fill of ditch [1105] – not investigated.	Breadth: c.1m
1105	Cut	Straight ditch running across SE corner of site.	Ditch – not investigated.	Breadth: c.1m
1106	Layer	Brown clayey silt with occasional stones up to 0.2m in length.	Mixed deposit including upper part of 1050 and of 1107 with no difference between them.	Depth: 0.5m
1107	Fill	Grey-brown clayey silt with occasional stones.	Fill of [1108]	
1108	Cut	Fairly straight cut edge gently sloping where exposed but steeper where best preserved. Not fully excavated but chased to expose edge.	Cut edge, possibly part of [1028] or ditch [1019].	
1109	Fill	Brown clay silt with several stones >0.2m long with gravel near sides and base. No clear patterning or arrangement to the stones.	Fill of [1110]	Diameter: c.0.6m
1110	Cut	Sub-circular cut with fairly steep sides and rounded base with 2 deeper hollows within.	Small pit at junction of ditch [1046]. Pit [1028] cuts close to [1110] but not possible to establish relationship.	Diameter: c.0.6m Depth: c.0.4m
1111	Fill	Brown clayey silt with small stones, 2 medium sized stones >0.2m long. One set on edge and largest is a conglomerate of the sort used to make quern stones.	Stones and fill of [1112], stones may have been deliberately placed.	Depth: 0.05m
1112	Cut	Very shallow cut, probably originally circular with steep sided and flat base, partially dug as rest under baulk.	Slight hollow, possibly specifically to support the stones in it.	Diameter: c.0.4m Depth: 0.05m
1113	Fill	Brown clayey silt with few stones.	Fill of [1114].	Depth: 0.06m
1114	Cut	Elongated shallow gully with rounded ends petering out before reaching [1039], running at NW-SE axis.	Gully or possibly a burrow.	Length: 2m Breadth: 0.44m Depth: 0.06m
1115	Fill	Brown clayey silt with few stones and grave, group of stones in E side.	Ditch fill – not investigated.	
1116	Cut	Straight broad ditch.	Possibly a field boundary ditch – not investigated.	Length: >24m Breadth: c.2.4m
1117	Layer	Very pale grey/white silty clay with few stones. Firm when dry and plastic when wet. Left rather upstanding due to machining.	Area of particularly pale clay.	Length: c.4m Breadth: c.3m
1118	Fill	Brown clayey silt with few stones.	Fill of [1119].	
1119	Cut	Amorphous, roughly L-shaped, very shallow feature.	Possibly traces of ploughing	Length: c.3m Breadth: c.0.5m Depth: 0.1m max
1120	Fill?	A linear patch of brown clayey silt with some small stones and patches of charcoal.	Not investigated, so unsure if this is the fill of a feature	Length: c.4.5m Breadth: up to c.1.0m
1121	Fill?	A linear spread of dark grey clayey silt with numerous small stones.	Almost certainly a ditch, but not investigated.	
1122	Fill?	A linear spread of dark grey clayey silt with occasional small stones.	Almost certainly a ditch, but not investigated.	
1123	Fill?	A linear spread of dark grey clayey silt with few stones and some lumps of reddish clay.	Almost certainly a ditch, but not investigated.	
1124	Fill?	Small sub-circular patch of charcoal-rich clayey silt.	Possible charcoal-filled pit or hollow, not investigated	Diameter: c.0.5m

Cadw

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