

Llanbeblig Environs Project

Excavation report



Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd
Gwynedd Archaeological Trust

Llanbeblig Environs Project

Excavation report

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LLANBEBLIG ENVIRONS PROJECT G2303

GWYNEDD ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST REPORT 1175

1. INTRODUCTION

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust carried out a programme of archaeological mitigation for Gwynedd Council in advance of the construction of a new school and associated infrastructure about 400m to the east of Segontium Roman fort (Fig. 1). This comprised geophysical survey and a substantial area of excavation. Two early medieval cemeteries with mortuary enclosures were discovered along the western side of the area, along with a scatter of 26 Roman features in which burning had taken place. The Roman features were interpreted as a series of ovens and a grain dryer. Radio-carbon dates indicate that the ovens date from the early 70s AD and may be associated with a construction camp for the fort. The development is on the edge of a large housing estate that runs up to the north and eastern sides of Segontium. Roman features have been identified within the estate including a Mithraeum but no widespread investigation has been carried out in this area.

There is a low level of public engagement with the archaeology of the area within the estates, particularly considering the proximity of Segontium. There have been several recent public events held at the fort and large-scale professional excavations have taken place in the vicinity but there has been little active engagement in the heart of this community.

The Llanbeblig Environs Project was designed to bring hands-on archaeological involvement in the form of two weeks of community excavation supervised by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust staff. The principal aim was to stimulate interest in the rich archaeological heritage of the area. It could also serve as an introduction to a second phase of work examining the archaeology within the gardens and green spaces of the housing estates. The excavation was in the current school grounds in an area of about 40m x 15m that was not excavated during the mitigation work for the school (see Kenney and Parry 2013 (ii)). Cuts for medieval graves (containing no bones or other remains due to the acidity of the soil) mortuary enclosures and Roman ovens were found in the adjacent excavation. This archaeology would be expected to continue into the proposed excavation. All of the available area was excavated allowing room for a reasonable number of volunteers and maximising the chances of finding further archaeological features.

2. PROJECT BACKGROUND

2.1 Previous work on the site (summarised from Kenney and Parry 2013 (i))

The archaeological mitigation was carried out between 2009 and 20011 in advance of the construction of Ysgol yr Hendre and associated structures in several phases for Cyngor Gwynedd Council. The work was carried out within four adjacent plots (Fig. 2):

Plot A – 1.5ha: an irregular shaped pasture field formerly used for recreation (centred on SH48906230)

Plot B – 2.3ha: an irregular shaped pasture field formerly used for recreation (centred on SH49106244). Although geophysical survey was carried out over all plot B only the western end of this plot was directly impacted by the development and so only a small part was stripped.

Plot C – 0.53ha: an irregular shaped overgrown field recently (centred on SH48916219)

Plot D - 0.15ha: an irregular shaped plot, recently abandoned and overgrown (centred on SH48936226)

Phase I involved an assessment of plot A (desk-based research and a walkover survey) followed by a geophysical magnetometer survey of this plot. The results of Phase I are described in GAT Report 773 (Kenney and Hopewell 2009). In addition to this geotechnical test pits in plot A were monitored, and the results of this are described in GAT Report 783 (Kenney 2009).

The **Phase II** programme of works comprised an initial evaluation of plots B and C (desk based assessment, geophysical magnetometer survey and one evaluation trench in plot A). The evaluation trench was dug between 7th and 14th December 2009, and the results are described in GAT report 840 (Jones and Rees 2009).

Following this **Phase III** was a programme of targeted trenching/limited excavation commencing on 25th January 2010 and completed on 24th February 2010.

Phase IV involved the stripping of soil from plots A, C and D with plot B being used for soil storage.

All archaeological features and deposits found were investigated, leading to open area excavation of the site. This phase of work started on 5th April 2010 and was completed on 30th July 2010.

Phase V: After a watching brief on plots A and B further excavation was undertaken in plot B between 16th May 2011 and 27th May 2011.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1. Topographic and geological background

The project area was the last remaining unexcavated portion of the Ysgol yr Hendre site (Fig. 3). It had been used as a topsoil store during the construction works. Previous to this it formed part of a parcel of land used for leisure activities.

The site lies at 50m OD on a ridge of ground between the rivers Seiont and Cadnant that flow through the town of Caernarfon into the Menai Strait. The excavation is on the eastern edge of the town, and on the edge of farmland that is rapidly being developed for housing. The rocks underlying Caernarfon are Ordovician shales and these are overlain by glacial drift (Davies 1977 and Casey and Davies 1993, 1). The glacial drift comprises somewhat variable deposits of stony clays and silts.

3.2. Archaeological and historical background

The site lies 1.1km to the east of the medieval walled town of Caernarfon and 390m east of the Roman fort of Segontium. In the Roman period the site would have been within the area of influence of the fort. In post Roman times the focus of activity moved to the medieval castle and town and the area around the excavation reverted to farmland.

Kenney and Parry (2013(i)) produced a comprehensive study of the archaeological remains in the area; the rest of section 3.2 is taken from their report with only minor alterations and additions.

Prehistoric sites are scarce in this area. A Bronze Age burial urn (PRN1 3101) was found at Maes y Barcer to the north of the study area, and several prehistoric finds have been recovered during excavations in the Roman fort of Segontium including three polished stone axes and two bronze axes. Two stone-axe hammers (PRN 3113) and a bronze axe (PRN 3121) were recovered from this side of Caernarfon but their provenance is not accurately known. A standing stone (PRN 3620) in the field to the east of the site seems to be rather small and may be a post medieval cattle rubbing stone rather than a prehistoric standing stone.

Segontium (PRN 3089) was a 2.27 hectare fort forming part of a network of forts in Snowdonia. Casey and Davies (1993, 10) conclude that “the balance of probability indicates that the site [Segontium] is Agricolan and dates to 77 AD or shortly after.” The fort would have been built after Gnaeus Iulius Agricola suppressed a rebellion of the Ordovices and occupied Anglesey (Nash-Williams 1969, 5). Segontium would probably have been garrisoned by a 1000-strong infantry unit commanded by a senior officer, and in the early period it was the largest fort in North Wales (Casey and Davies 1993, 10). At the end of the Trajanic period (c. 117 AD) the garrison seems to have been reduced with barracks being demolished and a decline in pottery and coins (Casey and Davies 1993, 11). Although the garrison was reduced several high status buildings were constructed, possibly for a procurator overseeing mining in north Wales (Casey and Davies 1993, 13-14). In the late 3rd and 4th centuries the fort seems to have been more densely occupied. The supply of coins seems to have ended around 393 AD and Casey (1993, 132) suggests that the garrison was withdrawn by Eugenius, who briefly held the Western Empire, to help defend his position.

The larger part of the fort was excavated by REM Wheeler in 1922 (Wheeler 1922, 1923a and 1923b), with the southern corner excavated by PJ Casey and JL Davies in 1975-79 (Casey and Davies 1993). There was a substantial *vicus* (civilian settlement) to the north-west, west and south of the fort, but there is little evidence of it continuing beyond the end of the 2nd century AD (Hopewell 2003, Hayter 1921). This included industrial activity to supply the army as well as the civilian population (White 1985). There appear to have been bath-houses outside the fort on the south-western side, as well as inside the southern corner of the fort (Nash-Williams 1969, 168). West of the fort, on the banks of the Afon Seiont, a walled enclosure known as Hen Waliau (PRN 3090), probably a storage depot, was built in the 4th century AD. This overlooked the site of an “immense wooden bridge” the remains of which were found in 1817, and were assumed to be part of a Roman bridge (PRN 5564) (Boyle 1991, 211).

Roman cremation burials (PRN 3092) were discovered while digging graves in the New Cemetery from about 1850 through to 1947 (RCAHMW 1960, 163). This appears to have been a major Roman cemetery located, as was usual, next to a main road; the modern Ffordd Llanbeblig being on the line of part of the Roman road leading east from the fort to Tomen y Môr (PRN 17533) (Hopewell 2007, 12). The Roman road to the north-east, running towards Deva (Chester) is visible on Environment Agency lidar survey in fields to the north of Cibyn Industrial Estate (Hopewell 2013, 28). A Roman temple to the god Mithras (PRN 3098) was also found to the east of the fort (Boon 1960). Two 1st to 2nd century sherds from earth beneath the Mithraeum suggest that it was constructed about 200 AD (Boon 1960, 144).

Aerial photographs of the football field taken in July of 2006 by Toby Driver of RCAHMW (Driver 2006) revealed evidence of an early medieval cemetery in the area. A parchmark was interpreted as a square barrow with a central grave pit (plate 1). The same feature could be seen on the geophysical survey carried out in the early stages of the assessment work. Previously the only potential early medieval site known in the area was the church dedicated to Saint Peblig (PRN 6942). Although this is first mentioned in the 13th century (RCAHMW 1960, 119), and most of the present structure dates from the 14th century or later (Davidson 1997, 171-3), it is suggested that this church has an early foundation. This claim rests largely on the dedication to Saint Peblig, traditionally thought to have lived in the late Roman period (RCAHMW 1960, 119), and its siting alongside the Roman road close to the earlier cemetery (Davidson 2009). Peblig is the Welsh version of the Latin name Publicus or Publicius, and Casey and Davies (1993, 16) suggest this could indicate a continuation of both a Roman cult and population after Segontium was abandoned.

There are other hints of early medieval activity centred on the fort. Wheeler excavated a small guardroom or sentry-box built inside a guardroom of the south-western gate of the fort. The walls are described as “flimsy” and bonded with clay rather than mortar so Wheeler ascribes an early medieval date to its construction (Wheeler 1922, 266). Wheeler also found an L-shaped section of “very rough wall of unmortared glacial boulders” built over the southern part of the courtyard of the principia (Wheeler 1922, 296), and concluded that this was probably post-Roman in date from its stratigraphical position.

In the area of the south-western gate a coin of the Northumbrian king Eanred (808-840 AD) was found (Wheeler 1922, 266). A coin of Cnut was found in the upper fill of the outer fort ditch near the north gate (Casey 1974, 71). The coins hint at early medieval use of the fort, although they could have been dropped during stone quarrying activities (Casey and Davies 1993, 16-17).

A motte and bailey castle was built by the Normans north-west of the Roman fort and settlement, at the mouth of the River Seiont. Established by 1093, this was to become the focus of a Welsh settlement and court until the conquest of Edward I in 1283. Edward replaced the Welsh settlement with an English garrison borough and a castle. Construction on the walled town and castle started in 1283 and work went on until c.1330. The borough was established by charter in 1284 and the town was the capital of the principality of Wales until 1536, and later became the county town (RCAHMW 1960, 115-118).

In 1918 the eastern spread of the town of Caernarfon had only just reached the Roman fort. By 1938 the housing estates off Ffordd Maes y Barcer were built, and in the early 1960s the Tŷ Gwyn estate was built adjacent to the site (Ordnance Survey maps 1918 to 1965). A late eighteenth century Vaynol Estate survey (Vaynol Papers 4056, 1777) shows that the field pattern dates to at least the late eighteenth century and has changed little since. The churchyard has expanded, a few minor boundaries have come and gone, and the road was straightened but the fields are easily recognisable. By 1889 three small buildings are shown in plot D and by 1918 these had been converted into an enclosed rectangular farmyard, with additional buildings and a small paddock. By 1918 Plot C was dominated by substantial glasshouses, but the rest of the site remained fields until by 1983 plot A had become a football ground with a club hut (Ordnance Survey maps 1889 to 1983).

3.3 Summary of the results of previous excavations (Figs 2 and 3)

The initial focus of the previous excavations was the early medieval cemetery that had been discovered from parchmarks during aerial reconnaissance (Kenney and Parry 2013 (ii)). The main part of the cemetery consisted of 3 square mortuary enclosures, two of which contained single burials. The third contained three burials. These were surrounded by an additional 41 definite and 4 possible unenclosed graves. Two further outlying mortuary enclosures were discovered 55m to the north-east. These contained single burials and there were no associated unenclosed graves. The largest of these was only 10m to the south-east of the current excavation. The mortuary enclosures appear to have been defined by open ditches. They were all aligned roughly WSW-ENE with the entrance on the easternmost side and it is assumed that they were the focus for the wider cemetery. The unenclosed graves were in roughly aligned, but somewhat irregular, groups. There was no bone preservation due to the acid soil; packing stones in some of the graves indicated that they probably had timber linings.

A series of 18 figure-eight-shaped features were found in an area overlapping and extending to the north and east of, the main part of the cemetery. These were interpreted as ovens, probably for cooking food, each containing two elements. One end of each figure-eight was heat affected and was probably a covered chamber that functioned as a simple oven. The second part was interpreted as being a raking-out pit. A series of radio-carbon dates were produced from the burnt material in the ovens. Bayesian modelling of burnt material from the ovens showed that activity started *cal AD 25–80 (95% probability)*, probably in *cal AD 50–75 (68% probability)* and ended in *cal AD 60–120 (95% probability)*, probably in *cal AD 70–90 (68% probability)*. There is a 71% probability that the precise date given above just precedes 77 AD and therefore it is likely that if the oven-use was a single event that it occurred at about the same time that Segontium was built. (Kenney and Parry 2013ii 257-8). It was therefore suggested that the ovens were associated with a construction camp for the fort. A marching camp containing similar ovens was identified at Kintore Aberdeenshire (Shepherd 1986, 207-208).

A prehistoric pit and some medieval features were also found. The medieval features included a corn drier in the middle of the cemetery cutting several graves. For further details see (Kenney and Parry 2012 i and ii).

4.0 THE LLANBEBLIG ENVIRONS PROJECT – COMMUNITY EXCAVATION

4.1 Methodology

The maximum area available for excavation was selected. Not all of the previously unexcavated area could be used, however, as storage space for spoil was needed. For reasons discussed below this was a little more than expected. The overburden was stripped under archaeological supervision using a 13 ton wheeled excavator.

The excavation was organised as a training and outreach excavation for the local community. The works were supervised by David Hopewell with assistance from Iwan Parry from GAT. Additional assistance was provided in training and outreach by Sam Emmett on a voluntary basis. Schools, outreach and some volunteer activities were co-ordinated and carried out by Anita Daimond with assistance from Sadie Williams. A total of 32 volunteers worked on the site ranging in experience from a retired professional archaeologist to people with no previous experience. Part 5 of this report (below) summarises the outreach activities.

After topsoil stripping the site was cleaned by hand and all features were fully excavated and recorded. This included some produced by recent disturbance that were ideal for training purposes. The excavations were carried out between July 8th and July 19th 2013. The weather was unusually hot and the silty substrate and many of the other deposits soon became baked to a universal colour and almost impenetrable hardness. Water sprinklers were used to soften the ground; features under excavation were covered with tarpaulins when not being worked on.

4.2 Results

4.2.1 Introduction

An area of 12m x 41m was excavated, centred on SH49036250, immediately to the north-west of the northernmost part of the previous excavations (Figs 3 and 4). As noted above, this area was the last remaining unexcavated portion of the Ysgol yr Hendre site. It had previously been used as a topsoil store and there should have been no ground disturbance during the construction works. The site comprised a rectangular area of poor quality turf between the school car-park and an access lane to the rear of the row of houses to the west.

4.2.2 Modern deposits and disturbance

The turf and overburden were stripped using a mechanical excavator. The turf comprised a thin layer of about 0.1 m of topsoil containing crushed slate chips. Beneath this was a deposit of between 0.2 and 0.6m of variable dark-grey clayey soil containing slate chips, coal, steel reinforced concrete, large stones and modern building waste. This directly overlaid hard glacial substrate comprising somewhat variable yellowish-grey clayey-silt. No original plough-soil was identified apart from a few isolated pockets at the north-eastern end of the site. It was clear that the whole area had been stripped of topsoil during the recent construction works. This had not been carried out under archaeological supervision and several deeper areas of disturbance, stone-holes and obvious marks

made by a toothed excavator bucket were recorded. All were excavated, planned and sampled to demonstrate their recent origin and are shown on Fig. 4. Mechanically crushed and graded slate chips as used on haul roads on the building site were present throughout the modern deposits and acted as a useful diagnostic marker for recent disturbance. A large and deeper area of disturbance was discovered close to the south-western corner of the site [004]. This had dimensions of about 5m x 5m and was 2m deep in places and was filled with large boulders, some over 2m in length that were too heavy to remove using the 13 ton excavator. These boulders had spray paint site markings on them demonstrating their recent origin (Plate 1).

It was clear that the entire excavation area had been topsoil stripped and that the upper part of the natural substrate had been removed or disturbed to an unknown depth. The site had then been covered with up to 0.6m of soil contaminated with building waste. The resulting ground level was about 0.3 m above the path on the west of the site suggesting that the ground level had been artificially raised in order to accommodate the dumped material. This had then been covered with a thin layer of topsoil and reseeded. This unexpected activity had clearly reduced the survival of archaeology on the site. It also increased the area needed for storage of spoil.

The amount of truncation was not immediately obvious so all traces of the dumped material were removed from the site by hand and all cuts and hollows were investigated (Plate 2). This demonstrated that some archaeology, cut into the natural substrate had survived and showed that the topsoil stripping had not cut deeply into the substrate apart from in the south-west corner of the site.

4.2.3 Probable Roman features

Two features were identified that did not contain post-medieval material.

Possible unfinished Roman oven (007)

A roughly figure 8 shaped feature was identified in the central/northern part of the trench. It was 3.0m x 0.2m and 0.4m deep and aligned north-south. The two halves were roughly bowl shaped with shallow and somewhat uneven sides (Fig. 5 and Plate. 3). The southern half was subrectangular the northern oval. The fill (016) was very similar to the yellow-brown silty substrate that it was cut into; it was however slightly browner and less compact and contained a few patches of red and yellow silt, very occasional small flecks of charcoal and a few rounded stones up to 0.15m in diameter. There were no signs of *in situ* burning and no artefacts were recovered from the feature.

The dimensions and shape of the feature was very similar to the 18 Roman pit-ovens identified in the nearby excavations (Kenney and Parry 2012 (ii) 253 to 261). The feature could be interpreted as an unfinished oven, the pit having been excavated and subsequently backfilled before any structure was complete and certainly before firing. The uniformity of the fill suggests that a sod roof or similar structure had not been constructed and subsequently collapsed before use. The lack of silting horizons also suggests that the pit had not naturally filled up or been backfilled at a later date. It is

therefore likely that it was excavated and back-filled in fairly quick succession. It had perhaps been dug in the wrong place or the area was required for some other activity.

It is of course possible that the shape of the feature is merely coincidental with the shape of the nearby Roman ovens, and if this is true it could be associated with almost any phase of activity on the site.

Pit and Burning (008)

This was a roughly oval pit with dimensions of 0.45m x 0.33m and a depth of 0.18m (Fig. 6 and Plate 4). The sides were irregular, almost vertical at the west end and shallow and slightly stepped on the east. The lower fill (022) comprised dark reddish-brown sandy silt with inclusions of charcoal and rounded stones. The upper (017) consisted of stones up to 0.12m long in a matrix of dark sandy silt containing about 60% fine charcoal. A single undiagnostic sherd of Roman coarseware was recovered from this context. Some of the stones were heat-affected but the burning products were mixed with unburnt material indicating that there had been no *in situ* burning. The area around the feature appears to have been quite heavily truncated, the level of the natural substrate being 0.07m lower on the western side.

Given the Roman material and lack of modern finds it is likely that this feature is associated with the Roman activity in the area although it could be later. It contains a concentration of charcoal and heat-affected stones in the upper fill. This does not appear to be a product of activity carried out within the pit.

The feature could be interpreted as a small raking-out pit associated with a nearby oven or similar structure that has subsequently been destroyed by ploughing or the more recent truncation of deposits in the area. It could alternatively be interpreted as a small hollow or pit that has been simply backfilled with burnt material.

4.2.4 Later Features

Small cut 002

A small (0.2m x 0.3m) sub-rectangular feature immediately adjacent to oven 007 was excavated. It was found to be a shallow but regular scoop, 0.1m deep filled with dark brown loam. A small sherd of modern porcelain and a piece of thin modern glass in the upper fill indicated a 20th century date. The function of the feature is unclear but it was not part of the modern disturbance.

Linear features 010 and 011

Two shallow linear cuts were excavated at the north-east end of the site. Both were 0.9m wide and a maximum of 0.15mm deep. The two cuts were aligned with each other and the fills and profiles were similar indicating that they were part of the same feature. The cuts both petered out toward the centre of the site suggesting that the feature had been truncated and that the gap was unlikely to indicate an entrance. The fill was somewhat mixed but mostly consisted of brownish to greyish

silty loam containing 19th century pottery and broken slate. The feature aligns perfectly with feature 5010 in Kenney and Parry's excavation (see Fig. 3). This was described as follows:

"In the northern corner of plot B was the corner of a ditched enclosure [5010]. The ditch ran north-north-west to south-south-east for 5.5m then turned to run to the west-north-west for 2.5m into the baulk. The ditch was up to 1.0m wide and no more than 0.15m deep, with quite gently sloping sides as if severely truncated. The brown silt fill contained Buckley ware, blue and white decorated pottery, roof slates and modern glass. This feature is not indicated on the County Series maps, although it does align with a field access track from the farm of Maes-y-Barker, and was probably related to a small agricultural enclosure or building, too temporary to have been included on the maps."

The current excavation supports their interpretation.

Possible tree-throw hole 012

An irregular shallow hole extending into the natural substrate with dimensions of 2.0m x 1.4m and a depth of 0.16m was excavated at the south-eastern end of the site. It contained a single fill of reddish brown gritty loam and contained no finds. Given the irregular shape of the hole it seems likely that the feature was produced by the roots of a tree that had been blown over. There was no datable material within the feature.

Sub-rectangular feature 013

A roughly rectangular feature extended under the north-western edge of the site. Excavation showed it to be shallow-sided and containing very clean brownish-orange sandy silts. A few fine flecks of charcoal were identified in the upper part of the fills. The clean silts suggested that this was a natural glacial feature and that the charcoal flecks were a result of bioturbation in the slightly softer fill of the feature.

4.3 Conclusions

The excavations identified a small amount of additional archaeology that was probably associated with the Roman activity in the area. This was at a low density suggesting that the possible Roman construction camp did not extend any further to the north and west. As in the previous phases of excavation no boundary ditches or other perimeter defences were identified. Davies and Jones (2006, 20-27) provide many examples of very slight perimeters to Roman camps that sometimes consist of little more than a slot a few centimetres deep. A slight feature such as this would not have survived in the truncated deposits in the excavation area. Kenney and Parry (2013ii, 261) suggest that other defences such as *tribuli*, that would not appear in the archaeological record, may have been used.

There were also no indications that the medieval cemetery extended into the excavated area supporting the interpretation that the two nearby outlying mortuary enclosures did not have any associated unenclosed burials.

The recent and apparently unauthorised disturbance of the area, presumably during the works associated with Ysgol yr Hendre, was unfortunate and had a negative impact on the archaeology of the area. The truncation of deposits ranged from relatively slight, across much of the excavation to severe where the large boulders had been buried. The disturbance was reported to Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service.

5. OUTREACH

The main outreach activity was the community excavation. This took place in mid-July so that it could be linked to the Festival of British Archaeology 2013. The main focus of the Festival in Caernarfon was at the nearby Segontium Roman Fort.

A total of 32 volunteers from the local area took part in the excavation (Plate 5). There was a core of five experienced amateur archaeologists who had worked on previous excavations with GAT. The other volunteers had limited or no excavation experience. A key volunteer, Sam Emmett was involved in the educational and administrative aspects of the project. He had previous experience supervising students on excavations and assisted with the induction, supervision and training of the volunteers. The volunteers were accompanied by seven school pupils on work experience placements, three of these pupils were from the local Secondary School (Ysgol Syr Hugh Owen) and lived on the estate next to the excavation.

A second strand of the project was organised by GAT's Education and Outreach Archaeologist Anita Daimond with assistance from Sadie Williams and Sam Emmett. This comprised a series of visits to the excavation from seven schools in the Caernarfon catchment area. The visits provided the pupils with hands-on excavation experience, along with a tour of the site and a chance to see how some of the recent discoveries by GAT tied into the subjects of the National Curriculum. The site visits allowed most of the pupils (Yrs. 2-6) from the adjacent Ysgol Yr Hendre to become involved with the excavation and also to see, on a more informal level, the day to day progression of the work. Other primary schools were prepared for their visits through in-school workshops delivered by outreach staff that raised the awareness of the significance of the site's archaeology. A total of 450 pupils visited the excavation.

The excavation also raised the awareness of the history of the Roman history of the area with the local community. Numerous informal enquiries and visits were made and local residents provided help with the excavation.

The Festival of British Archaeology and associated Segontium Heritage Open Day took place during the weekend that fell within the excavation fortnight. Tours to the archaeological site were led from a Gwynedd Archaeological Trust stall at the Segontium event; these incorporated an introduction to the wider Roman context associated with the two sites and a tour of the on-going excavation led by the site director. A leaflet was prepared to accompany the walks and to give to visitors to the stall. The leaflet linked the recent discoveries at Llanbeblig with Segontium and its environs and the recently discovered Roman trading settlement at Tai Cochion on the opposite side of the Menai Strait (Hopewell and Smith 2012). A range of family-based activities were also arranged at the stall.

A series of interpretation panels were commissioned especially for the event focussing on the recent discoveries at Llanbeblig and their relationship with Segontium. The panels have since been adapted for permanent display in the newly opened Segontium Roman Fort Centre.

The excavation was featured in the local papers and in the Daily Post as well as on Radio Cymru and S4C Newyddion. Subsequently a feature entirely focussed on the Llanbeblig excavation was included in the S4C programme *Heno* (Plate 6).

The project was designed to prioritise the outreach aspects of the excavation. It was well-received by the local community and generated a lot of interest. The excavation did not uncover a lot of significant archaeology. In some ways this made a positive contribution to the project outcomes as it allowed considerably more attention to be paid to training and outreach compared to a more complex and archaeologically challenging site

6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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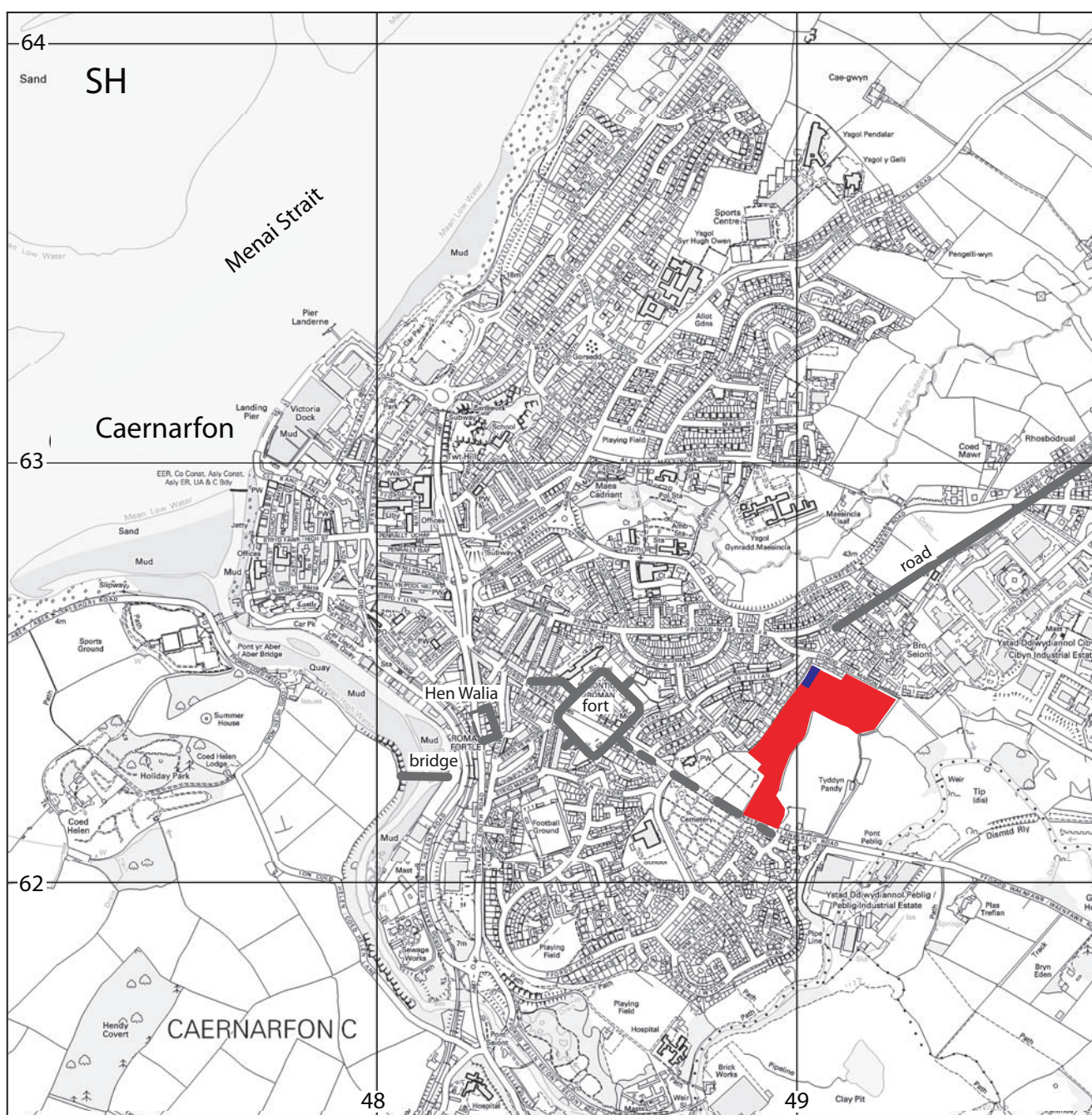
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Fig. 1 Location of the site (shown in blue) previous excavations (red) and main Roman features (grey).
Based on OS 1:10,000 scale maps. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved.



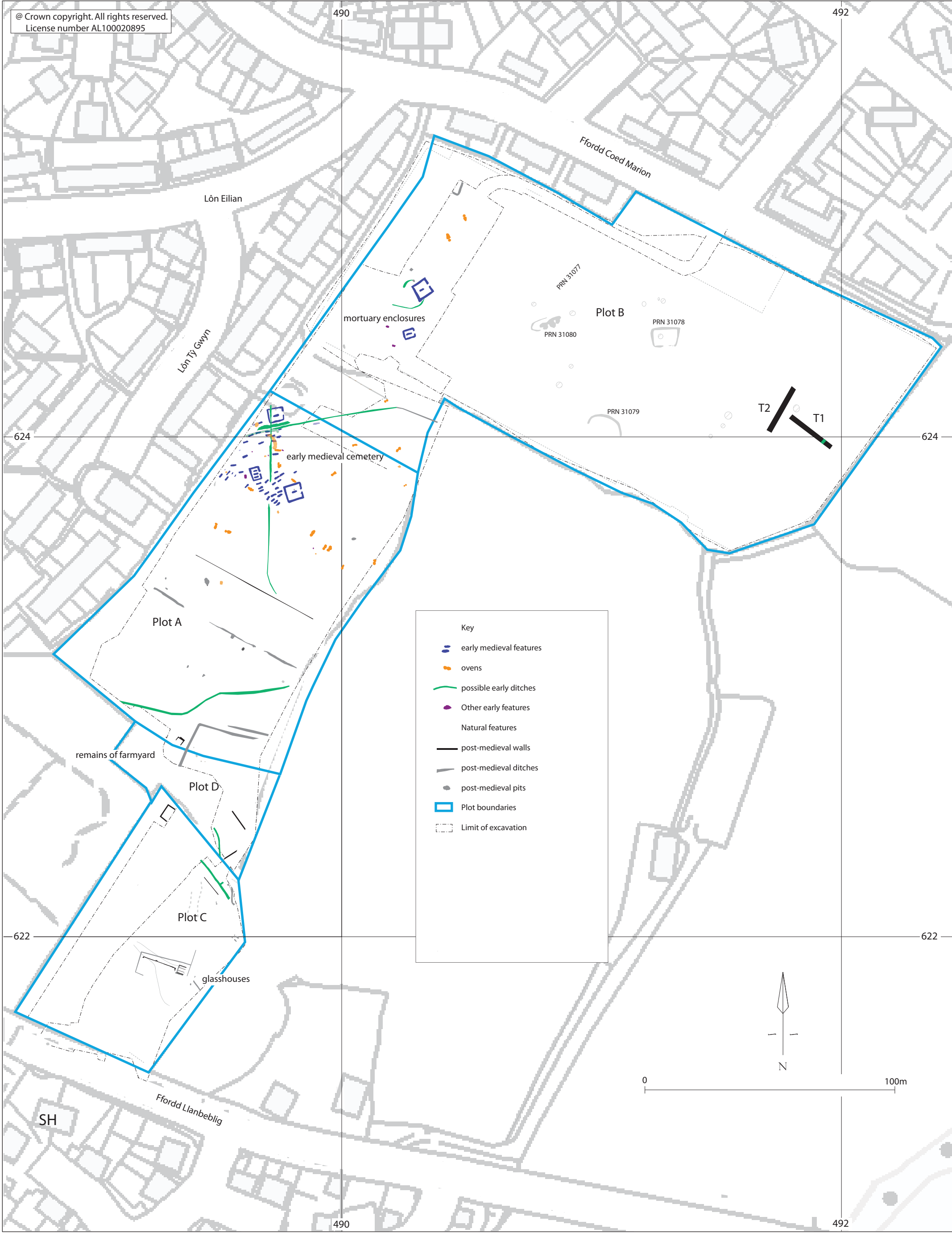


Fig. 2 Location of plots, excavated area and features (adapted from Parry and Kenney 2013(ii))

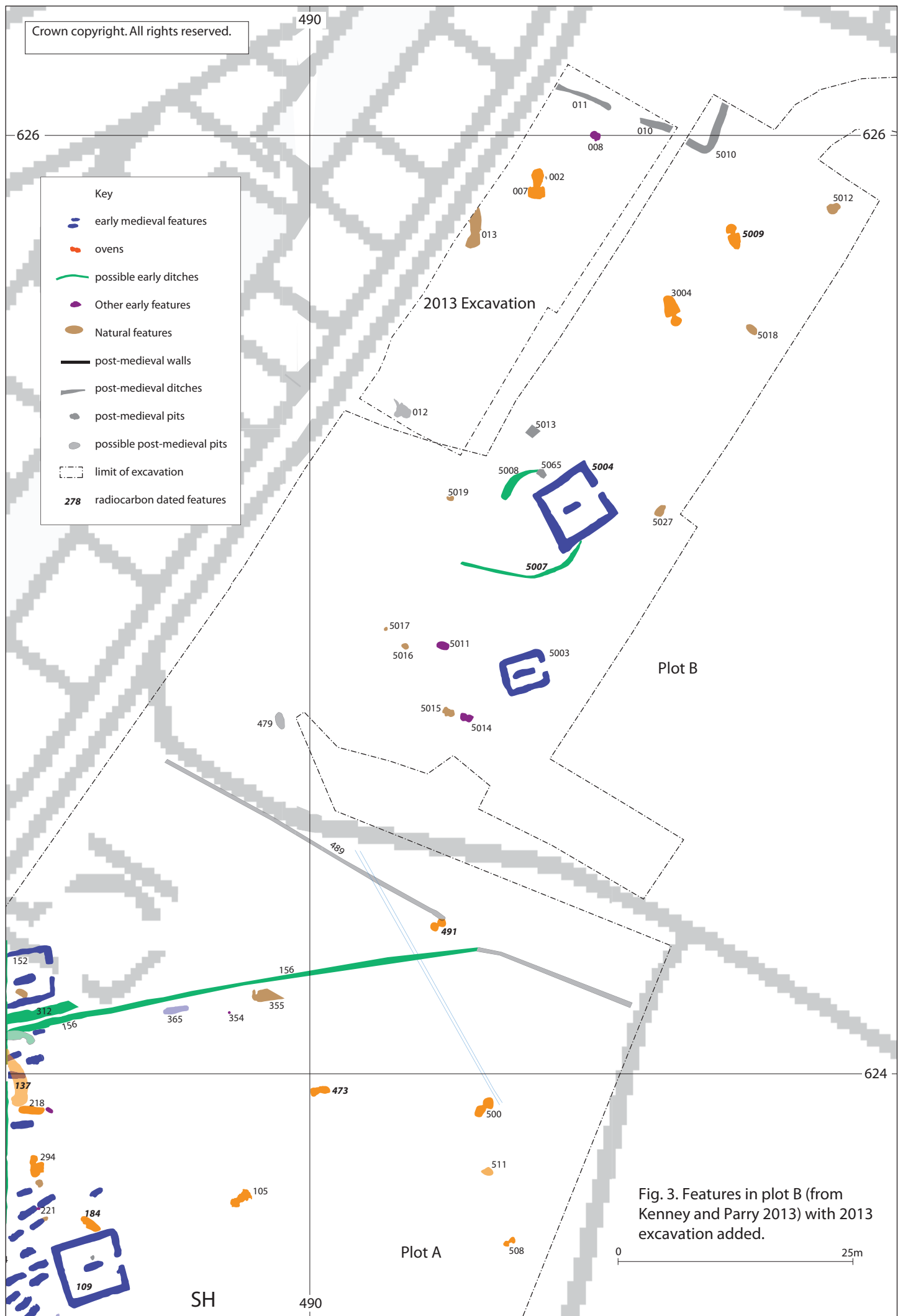




Fig. 4 Excavation trench showing archaeological features and areas of modern disturbance

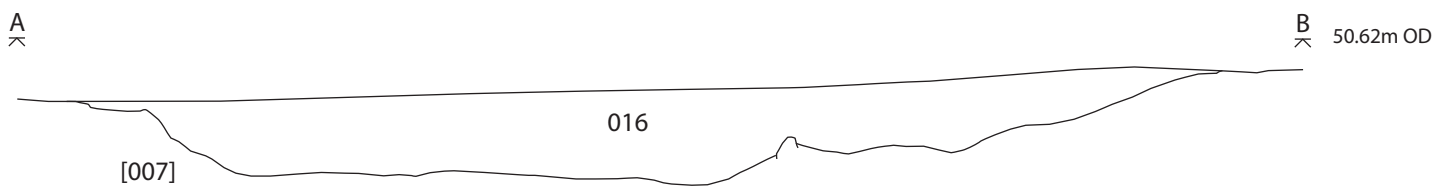
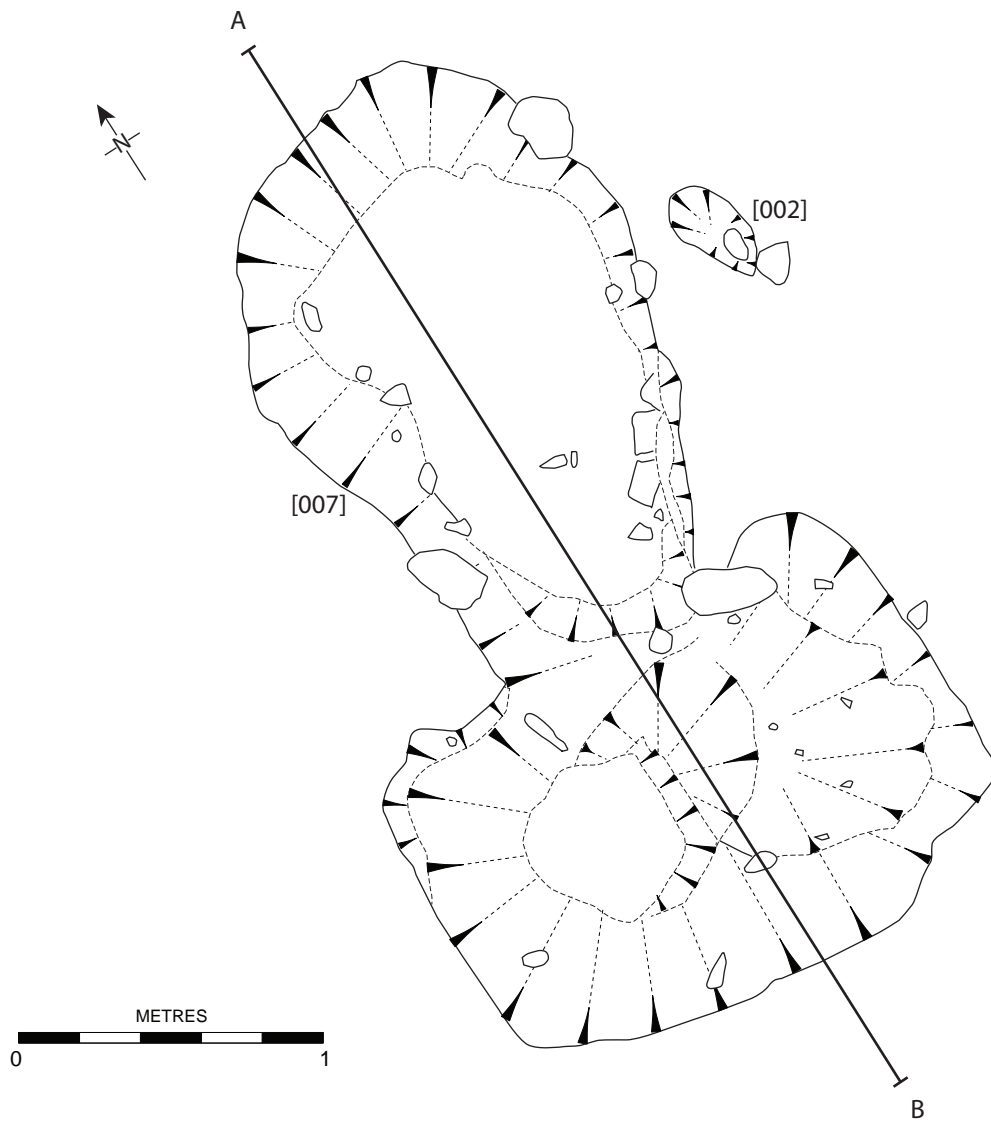


Fig. 5 Plan and section of possible unfinished Roman oven [007]

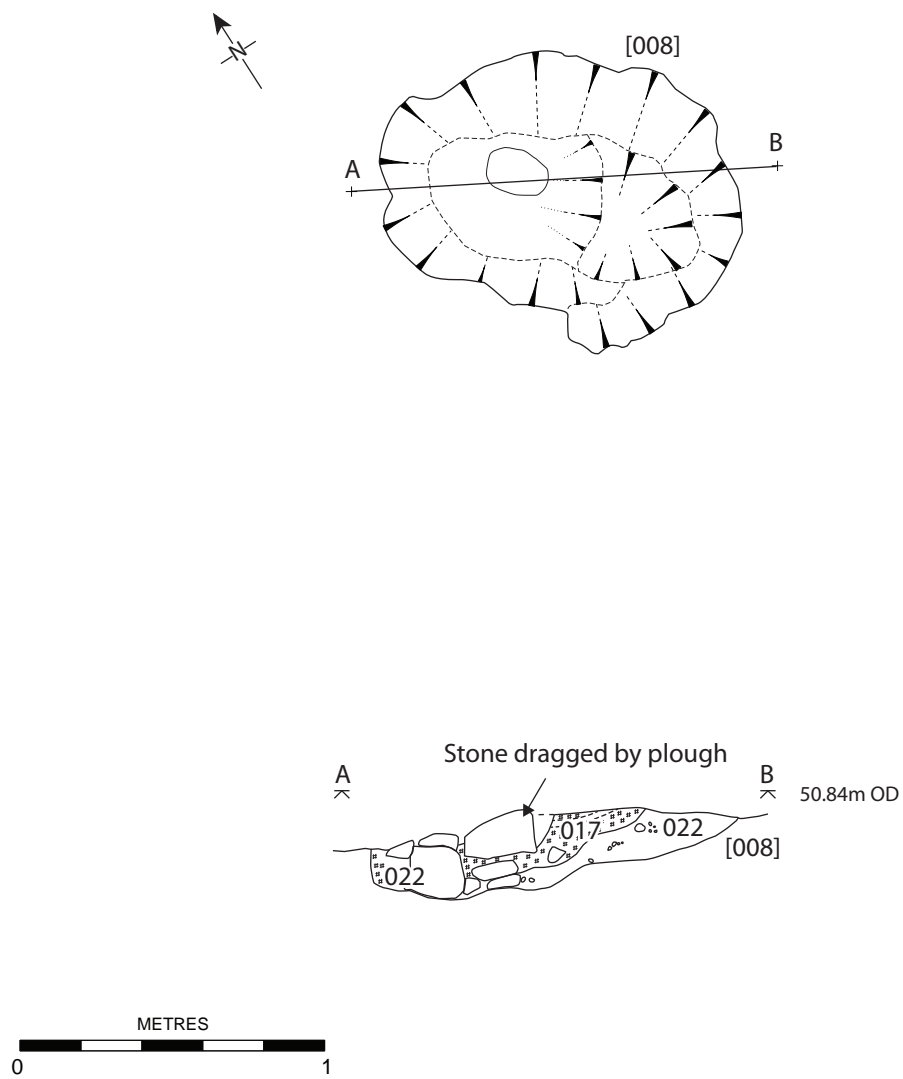


Fig. 6 Plan and section of pit 008



Plate 1 Modern disturbance, boulders buried on the site



Plate 2 Last day of the excavation; Ysgol yr Hendre in background



Plate 3 Possible unfinished oven [007] after excavation



Plate 4 Pit with burning [008] before excavation



Plate 5 Volunteers working on site



Plate 6 Gareth Jenkins and the Heno TV crew



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