

LLANFAWR NEWYDD, LLANGRISTIOLUS,  
ANGLESEY: PHASE 2 DEVELOPMENT

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

G1818



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Report number : 513

Prepared for

Symonds Group Ltd

JANUARY 2004

Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd  
Gwynedd Archaeological Trust

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## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT (G1818)**

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# **LLANFAWR NEWYDD, LLANGRISTIOLUS, ANGLESEY PHASE 2 DEVELOPMENT**

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT (G1818)**

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust has been asked by Symonds Group Ltd to carry out an archaeological assessment in advance of new development at Llanfawr Newydd, as specified on a location map provided by Symonds Group Ltd, which divides the area into two phases. Phase one lies within a field north of Llanfawr Newydd, and between it and the A55 dual carriageway. Phase 2 is a much larger area, centred on SH4451 7384 and incorporating five fields on the west and south sides of the phase 1 area. This report contains an assessment of the phase 2 area, and a separate report considers phase 1.

An assessment and programme of field evaluation has already been undertaken for the phase one area (GAT Report 330), and this project will include and expand the findings from the earlier project and carry out an assessment of the area for phase two of the project.

### **2 SPECIFICATION AND PROJECT DESIGN**

The basic requirement was for a desk-top survey and field search of the proposed area, in order to assess the impact of the proposals on the archaeological features within the area concerned. The importance and condition of known archaeological remains were to be assessed, and areas of archaeological potential and new sites to be identified. Measures to mitigate the effects of the construction work on the archaeological resource were to be suggested.

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust's proposals for filling these requirements were as follows:

- Desktop study
- Field walkover
- Report

### **3 METHODS AND TECHNIQUES**

#### **3.1 Desk top study**

This comprised the consultation of maps, documents, computer records, written records and reference works, which form part of the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), located at GAT, Bangor. The archives held by the Anglesey and Caernarfon Record Offices and University of Wales Archives Bangor were also consulted. Relevant aerial photographs from the collection at National Monument Record, Wales were examined. A previous assessment report examining an area including the Phase 1 development was consulted (GAT report number 330 1999, *Llanfawr Newydd Service Area Archaeological Evaluation*)

Sites, buildings and find spots listed in the GAT SMR were identified (Fig. 1) within three zones. Those within about 1km of the development were identified in order to give background information relevant to understanding the area. Those within 100m, might have direct relevance for understanding the easement area, and finally those directly on the easement route, might be physically affected by construction.

### 3.2 Field Survey

The field survey was undertaken on the 7th of December 2003. The area of development stands in improved pasture, sloping to the south-east from a ridge close to the north-west of the area. The locations of all sites identified were marked on a 1:10000 map and written and photographic records were made. The records will be retained in the site archive (under project number G1818) at Gwynedd Archaeological Trust.

### 3.3 Report

The available information was synthesised to give a summary of the archaeological and historic background and of the assessment and recommendations, as set out below. The separate features, their evaluation and recommendations are listed separately, and a summary of the overall assessment of the area is given at the end.

The criteria used for assessing the value of features was based upon those used by the Secretary of State for Wales when considering sites for protection as scheduled ancient monuments, as set out in the Welsh Office circular 60/96. The definitions of categories used for impact, field evaluation and mitigation are set out below.

#### 3.3.1 Categories of importance

The following categories were used to define the importance of the archaeological resource.

##### *Category A - Sites of National Importance.*

Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings of grade II\* and above, as well as those that would meet the requirements for scheduling (ancient monuments) or listing (buildings) or both.

Sites that are scheduled or listed have legal protection, and it is recommended that all Category A sites remain preserved and protected *in situ*.

##### *Category B - Sites of regional or county importance.*

Grade II listed buildings and sites which would not fulfil the criteria for scheduling or listing, but which are nevertheless of particular importance within the region.

Preservation *in situ* is the preferred option for Category B sites, but if damage or destruction cannot be avoided, appropriate detailed recording might be an acceptable alternative.

##### *Category C - Sites of district or local importance.*

Sites which are not of sufficient importance to justify a recommendation for preservation if threatened.

Category C sites nevertheless merit adequate recording in advance of damage or destruction.

##### *Category D - Minor and damaged sites.*

Sites that are of minor importance or are so badly damaged that too little remains to justify their inclusion in a higher category.

For Category D sites, rapid recording, either in advance of or during destruction, should be sufficient.

##### *Category E - Sites needing further investigation.*

Sites, the importance of which is as yet undetermined and which will require further work before they can be allocated to categories A - D are temporarily placed in this category, with specific recommendations for further evaluation. By the end of the assessment there should usually be no sites remaining in this category.

### **3.3.2 Definition of Impact**

The impact of the road development on each site was estimated. The impact is defined as *none, slight, unlikely, likely, significant, considerable or unknown* as follows:

*None:*

There is no construction impact on this particular site.

*Slight:*

This has generally been used where the impact is marginal and would not by the nature of the site cause irreversible damage to the remainder of the feature, e.g. part of a trackway or field bank.

*Unlikely:*

This category indicates sites that fall within the band of interest but are unlikely to be directly affected. This includes sites such as standing and occupied buildings at the margins of the band of interest.

*Likely:*

Sites towards the edges of the study area, which may not be directly affected, but are likely to be damaged in some way by the construction activity.

*Significant:*

The partial removal of a site affecting its overall integrity. Sites falling into this category may be linear features such as roads or tramways where the removal of part of the feature could make overall interpretation problematic.

*Considerable:*

The total removal of a feature or its partial removal which would effectively destroy the remainder of the site.

*Unknown:*

This is used when the location of the site is unknown, but thought to be in the vicinity of the proposed road.

### **3.3.3 Definition of field evaluation techniques**

Field evaluation is necessary to fully understand and assess most class E sites and to allow the evaluation of areas of land where there are no visible features but for which there is potential for sites to exist. Two principal techniques can be used for carrying out the evaluation: geophysical survey and trial trenching.

Geophysical survey most often involves the use of a magnetometer, which allows detection of some underground features, depending on their composition and the nature of the subsoil.

Trial trenching allows a representative sample of the development area to be investigated at depth. Trenches of appropriate size can also be excavated to evaluate category E sites. Trenching is typically carried out with trenches of between 20 to 30m length and 2m width. The topsoil is removed by machine and the resulting surface is cleaned by hand, recording features. Depending on the stratigraphy encountered the machine may be used to remove stratigraphy to deeper levels.

### **3.3.4 Definition of Mitigatory Recommendations**

*None:*

No impact and therefore no requirement for mitigation measures.

*Avoidance*

Where possible, features that may be affected should be avoided. Sometimes this could mean a change in layout, design or route. More usually it refers to the need for care during construction to avoid accidental damage to a feature. This may be achieved by marking features or areas, for example with warning tape, before work starts, or in sensitive cases carrying out a watching brief.

*Detailed recording:*

Detailed recording requires a photographic record, surveying and the production of a measured drawing prior to the commencement of the works on site.

Archaeological excavation may also be required depending upon the particular feature and the extent and effect of the impact.

*Basic Recording:*

A photographic record and full description, and limited measured survey where applicable.

*Watching brief:*

Requiring observation of particular identified features or areas during works in their vicinity. This may be supplemented by detailed or basic recording of exposed layers or structures.

It can be further defined as comprehensive (present during all ground disturbance), intensive (present during sensitive ground disturbance, intermittent (viewing the trenches after machining) or partial (as when seems appropriate).



## 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

### 4.1 Topographic description

The study area comprises a sub-rectangular area measuring approximately 600m x 500m set within five fields of improved grazing. All of the fields have been extensively ploughed and cleared. The landowner, Mr Owen of Llanfawr Newydd, however stated that the south-eastern fields had not been much ploughed within living memory. The fields are bounded by dry gritstone walls or stone faced earthen banks.

The three fields at the north-west of the study area slope fairly steeply towards the south-west from a ridge close to the north-western boundary. The rest of the area is gently undulating. All of the fields are slightly uneven and occasional very indistinct banks can be seen, along with more prominent rock outcrops.

The underlying geology was found to be quite variable consisting of dark grey limestone at the western end of the study area with gritstone and conglomerate at the east. Red boulder clay overlies the bedrock in the lower parts of the fields.

### 4.2 Archaeological and historical background

A total of 21 sites are recorded as standing within 1km of the study area on the regional SMR. These are listed in table 1 and their locations are shown on Fig. 1. None fall within the development area although a cluster of sites to the east is of direct relevance.

TABLE 1 SUMMARY OF SITES WITHIN 1KM OF THE DEVELOPMENT

PRN	SITENAME	NGR	SITESTAT	PERIOD
61	HOLLOW WAY, TYDDYN BLEDDYN, LLANGRISTIOLUS	SH44807370C		Medieval
81	FIELD SYSTEM, TYDDYN BLEDDYN, LLANGRISTIOLUS	SH44807370C		Medieval
405	HUT PLATFORM, TYDDYN BLEDDYN, LLANGRISTIOLUS	SH44807370		Medieval
1591	WAYSIDE WELL, W. OF LLANGRISTIOLUS CHURCH	SH44907353		Post-medieval
1592	LIME KILN, SW OF LLANGRISTIOLUS CHURCH	SH44937347		Post-medieval
1599	LIME KILNS, SW OF LLEDWIGAN	SH45367360C		Post-medieval
1608	LLEDWIGAN LLAN (PLACE-NAME), LLANGRISTIOLUS	SH44977358C		Early-medieval
1609	LLEDWIGAN LLYS (PLACE-NAME), LLANGRISTIOLUS	SH45507405		Early-medieval
1706	TOLLBAR, NANT	SH45047387		Post-medieval
2154	QUERNSTONE - FINDSPOT, NANT NEWYDD	SH44907450A		Prehistoric
2735	LLANGRISTIOLUS CHURCH (C12TH)	SH45017357		Medieval
2736	BRONZE AXE - FINDSPOT, LLEDWIGAN, LLANGRISTIOLUS	SH45007400A		Prehistoric
2738	STANDING STONE, LLEDWIGAN, LLANGRISTIOLUS	SH45677398		Prehistoric
4456	LLANFAWR GARDEN, LLANGRISTIOLUS	SH44827342C		Post-medieval
5754	POSS. FIELD SYSTEM IN FIELD NW OF GERLLAN	SH44707410		Unknown
7017	LLANGRISTIOLUS PARISH CHURCH	SH45017357		Medieval; Post-medieval
7390	KILNS, FFRWD ONEN	SH44207325		Post-medieval
7685	PISGAH	SH44027469		Post-medieval
7686	CANA	SH43737451		Post-medieval
11108	LLAN BACH	SH44987357	LB	Post-medieval
11802	TYN LLIDIART WINDMILL	SH43937474	LB	Post-medieval



#### **4.2.1. Prehistoric/ Romano-British**

No Prehistoric or Roman remains have been recorded within the study area although four Bronze Age burnt mounds were found at Waen Hir just to the north, during a watching brief conducted during the construction of the new A55 dual carriageway (Maynard forthcoming, 79). A Bronze Age standing stone at Lledwigan Llan (PRN 2738) and finds of a Bronze Axe (PRN 2736) and a Romano-British rotary quern stone (PRN 2154) demonstrate prehistoric activity in this part of Anglesey.

#### **4.2.3. Medieval to Modern**

The cluster of sites to the east of the study area reflects the development of the area from medieval to modern times and is of direct relevance to the development. A previous assessment (GAT report 330, 1999) included a detailed study of the medieval settlement along with geophysical survey, excavation and the transcription of aerial photographs. The phase 1 area of the present proposed development was included in this evaluation.

##### *Documentary evidence*

The parish church of St Cristiolus lies 300m from the study area. It probably originates from the 6<sup>th</sup> century, although the first stone church was built around the 12<sup>th</sup> century and was reconstructed in the first half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, when the chancel was enlarged and a chancel arch-inserted. The majority of the building was rebuilt in modern times but the chancel arch and a 12<sup>th</sup> century font remain (RCAHMW 1937, 95).

Settlement of the area around Llanfawr during the medieval period is reasonably well documented although physical remains relating to the documentary evidence are sparse. The present farm of Lledwigan lies some 700m to the north of the development site. The place name reflects the name of the former medieval township of Lledwigan, which was originally subdivided into two parts, Lledwigan Lllys and Lledwigan Llan and stood within the commote of Mallaeth (GAT Report No 308, 1998). The exact position of the medieval settlements is not known but Lledwigan Lllys could be expected to lie close to the present farm of Lledwigan and Lledwigan Llan may have been either close to the church, or close to the farm called Llanfawr. These settlements are mentioned in *The Extent of Anglesey* dating from 1352. Lledwigan Llan was granted by Llywelyn ap Gruffydd to the sons of Llywelyn ap Meredudd, a descendant of Cynan ab Owain Gwynedd, the last lord of Merionnydd, after his expulsion in 1256 (Carr 1982, 49). It is likely, from its name, that the township was formerly held by the church. Lledwigan Lllys was held by the descendants of the poet Gwalchmai ap Meilir (ibid. 50)

The field adjacent to the church and Llanfawr contains a number of earthworks comprising relict field boundaries, a hollow way and a rectangular enclosure that may be the remains of a dwelling (PRNs 61, 81 and 405). On the Baron Hill estate map of 1776, the field is subdivided into a number of smaller plots (Baron Hill 4960, sheet 85) that form part of two leased units, Nant at the north and Llan Mawr (i.e. Llanfawr) at the south. Only one plot, listed as Lain'r Hendy house and gardens (Hendy can be translated as old house), is shown to contain a dwelling. A pencil mark on the northern side of a plot listed as Tyddyn Bleddyn could represent a building that was a later addition to the map. Fig.2 shows the details of the estate map overlying a modern ordnance survey map.

The estate map shows that much of the outlying area was composed of fields that were relatively large and regular. The pattern of small plots around Hendy and Llan Bach is anomalous. It seems likely that these plots reflect an earlier settlement pattern, i.e. small enclosures that formerly contained buildings that had been abandoned and dismantled by 1776. The cartographic evidence thus appears to reflect the presence of an earlier nucleated settlement and it would be reasonable to assume, given its proximity to the church, that this was the medieval bond township of Lledwigan Llan.

The above features lie just to the east of the study area. The field pattern within the study area itself can be seen to have changed considerably since 1776. The present-day regular fields bear little relation to the irregular smaller fields shown on the estate map. Only the north-western and south-western boundaries of the area appear to have been preserved. The majority of the area formed part of the holding of Llan Mawr with the north-eastern side extending into the holding of Nant. The map shows a small house and garden, probably called Ty Bach, standing on the ridge close to the north-west side of the phase 2-development area.

The tithe map was also examined to see if any additional detail was available, but no field boundaries were shown, nor tracks, and the area was simply indicated as part of the farm of Llanfawr, then owned by R Williams Bulkeley, of Baron Hill, Beaumaris.

The study area stands on the edge of an area of limestone. This was exploited during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries for building and agricultural lime production. Three kilns (PRN 1592 1599 and 7390) and associated workings stand to the south and east of the study area.

#### *Aerial photographs*

Some of the boundaries and features shown on the estate map can still be seen on the ground. Fig. 3 shows features transcribed from stereo pairs of aerial photographs taken by the RAF in 1947 (CPE/UK 1939, JAN 18 47 3186-7) during the earlier assessment (GAT report 330, 1999). The adjacent photographs (CPE/UK 1939...4184 and 4185) covering the phase 2-development area were examined as part of the present project but no further features could be seen.

Several of the transcribed features can be recognised as features on the estate map:

The position of rectangular feature A corresponds to the building Hendy on the estate map. The feature on the ground appears to be at a different orientation and to be somewhat larger than that depicted on the map. If the map evidence is correct, it is possible the original structure was subsequently extended or rebuilt.

Features B, C, G and J can all be seen as low banks or lynchets on the ground and correspond to field boundaries on the estate map

Feature F is a slight hollow running across the field, and documentary evidence shows this to have been a road, dating from the 16<sup>th</sup> century or earlier, known as 'Church Way' running between Rhos Engan and Llangristiolus Church (White 1977-8, 26-27. Note that White's location of Tyddyn Bledodyn is incorrect). The line of the track is preserved as a public footpath.

Another track, feature I, which is also a modern right of way, joins Church Way at the western side of the field. The landowner reported that this path had been built as a farm track early in the present century by dumping stones from field clearance. He did not know of any tradition of an earlier road. This track does not appear on the 1900 edition OS map.

Feature K represents a quarry that was infilled in the last decade.

Features D, E, L and H are visible on the ground as low indistinct earthworks, but cannot be correlated to features shown on the 1776 estate map.

Feature I falls within the phase 1 development and feature K within the phase 2 area.

#### *Field evaluation 1993-1999*

Two earlier programmes of field evaluation have been carried out, mainly within the phase 1 development area. Details are included here because some of the features identified extend into the phase 2 area. The results are summarised in Fig. 4. The earliest formed part of the evaluation for the A5 Anglesey improvements (GAT reports 70, 1993 and 106, 1994 and Geophysical Surveys of Bradford Report 94/59). Two areas of gradiometer survey were carried out within the present development). The location of the survey areas (Geo. Plot B, and E) is shown on Fig. 4.

The western end of area B lies within the phase 2-development area. Plough scarring, possibly indicating ridge and furrow was detected in the eastern part of the survey.

Area E was located in the north-west of the phase 1 development area. Several weak archaeological responses were tentatively noted. The majority of these were ditch type anomalies. The truncated linear response in the south-eastern corner of the grid was interpreted as a possible field boundary.

Two further geophysical survey areas (A and D) were located just to the west of the study area. Plough scarring was identified in both surveys along with other anomalies that were shown to be geological during subsequent trial trenching.

Four trenches (see Fig. 4) were excavated at the north-eastern end of the phase 1 development area during the evaluation of the A5 Anglesey improvements (GAT Report No. 106). One trench lying 90m to the east of the development area contained features of archaeological relevance.

#### *Trench 22*

This trench was 2.3m wide and 33.5m long. It contained two stone filled field drains and one shallow linear feature. This feature was aligned east – west from the present field boundary and could be traced for a distance of 3.3m where it petered out. The excavator reported that it appeared to be a shallow field drain.

#### *Trench 25*

This trench was 2.3m wide and 20m long. It contained one stone filled field drain.

#### *Trench 27*

This trench was 2.3m wide and 33m long. It contained a linear ditch in a north-east to south-west orientation that was identified on the geophysical survey. The ditch was 1.4m wide and contained a stony fill. A stone filled field drain was also identified that stopped when it reached the ditch suggesting that both features formed part of the same drainage system.

#### *Trench 6*

Trench 6, 2.3m wide and 30m long, was located about 90m to the east of the development area. Two graves were found in this trench. Both were orientated east – west and were of a size that suggested that they were for a juvenile. There was no bone survival and no datable remains. Their orientation however, suggests that that they were Christian burials probably of a sub-Roman date. The two graves were about 5m apart suggesting that they did not form part of a closely packed cemetery. No other inhumations were discovered during the assessment and it is possible that the graves belonged to a small family group.

The second programme of evaluation was carried out in 1999 in response to plans to build a service area alongside the new A55 (GAT Report 330, 1999)

An area with dimensions of 80m x 60m was surveyed at the south of the phase 1 development area.

The following anomalies with archaeological potential were detected and are indicated on the summary plan (Fig. 4).

A. A well defined curvilinear anomaly. It varies in width and intensity across the site and appears to be made up of numerous smaller features suggesting that it is made up of stones as opposed to earth. It can thus be best interpreted as a stone track or a collapsed wall, and therefore probably represents the 19<sup>th</sup> century field clearance track.

B and C. Two, roughly parallel, weak linear anomalies were detected, running in an east - west direction across the survey area. These features could be a result of deep plough scarring or could be field drains or ditches.

The geophysical survey was followed by the excavation of three trial trenches (Trenches A to C, Fig. 4); the location of which was partly influenced by the results of the geophysical survey. Trenches A and B measured 20m x 2m and trench C measured 40m x 2m.

#### *Trench A*

This was excavated in order to investigate the nature of the field clearance track and to confirm the existence of bedrock close to the ground surface. The topsoil was removed by machine and the trench was cleaned by hand. The north-eastern end of the trench consisted of 0.1 to 0.2m of turf and topsoil directly overlying the limestone bedrock. The level of the bedrock dropped away towards the south-eastern end of the trench where red boulder clay and a stony track and could be seen directly beneath the shallow topsoil. The road surface consisted of an accumulation of mixed stones embedded in the top of the boulder clay. The road was 2.2m wide and the surface was consistent with the landowners description of a track formed from an accumulation of field clearance.

#### *Trench B*

This was excavated in order to investigate geophysical anomalies B and C. Only one feature was detected after the removal of the topsoil, a 1.4m wide by 0.3m deep trench filled with a single context of stones and very wet grey clay. This was almost certainly anomaly B, and was interpreted as a field drain that had become choked with clay and had not been renewed. Field drains were uncovered elsewhere in the field (see trench C, below) but these were much narrower, on a different alignment and were still fully functional. The drain in trench B therefore appears to belong to an earlier phase of drainage. A flint flake was recovered from the clay on the surface of the drain but there were no finds from within the feature.

#### *Trench C*

This trench was aligned to further investigate geophysical anomalies A and B. An unusual depth of ploughsoil had accumulated at the northern end of the trench. Between 0.9m and 0.5m of fairly uniform ploughsoil was removed by machine. No finds were recovered from this soil but manganese panning was observed in the lower part of the profile suggesting that the depth of soil had gradually accumulated over a long period of time as a result of ploughing and erosion from the higher parts of the field. Regularly spaced modern stone filled field drains, cut into the boulder clay beneath the topsoil, were revealed in the northern half of the trench.

The ploughsoil became shallower towards the southern end of the trench. A continuation of the track detected in trench A (Feature 1 on fig. 3) was revealed within the topsoil 10m from the southern end of Trench C. The 3.5m wide track consisted of a loose accumulation of small field clearance stones along with the occasional broken brick, again suggesting that it was constructed during the present century.

Another track was revealed to the south of the 19<sup>th</sup> century track, 6m from the southern end of the trench. This was of a markedly different character to the former. The surface was constructed from a mixture of gritstone and limestone slabs up to 0.4m across. These had been laid onto natural clay and shattered bedrock. The alignment of the track could not be accurately determined but it could run parallel to the other, and may therefore be an earlier alignment of the later track, although it is not shown on the 1776 map.

### **4.3 The Archaeological Field Survey (Fig 5)**

Details of the features 1 and 2 are included here because they probably extend from the phase 1 area into the phase 2 area. The further assessment and mitigatory measures recommended here refer to the portions of the features in the phase 2 area only. Recommendations for the phase 1 development area are contained in GAT report No 512 p 10.

#### **Feature 1      The field clearance track**

*SH44647372C*

*Period: Post medieval*

*Category: C Impact: Considerable*

A rough track consisting of a spread of field clearance stone was identified in the 1999 assessment (GAT Report 330). This was difficult to trace in the field but could be detected as being firmer underfoot and is visible in the summer due to yellowing of the grass. The track presumably follows the line of the public footpath through the phase 2 area although little can be seen on the ground although it is no known if field clearance was used here (see also Feature 2 as the two tracks may converge to form one feature)

***Recommendations for further assessment: None***

***Recommendations for mitigatory measures: Intensive watching brief***

#### **Feature 2      Trackway**

*SH44647371*

*Period: Medieval/Post medieval*

*Category: B Impact: Considerable*



A track or road constructed from stone slabs was also identified in the 1999 assessment (GAT Report 330). This was assumed to be an earlier phase of Feature 1 but its alignment was not accurately established. This could not be seen during the field survey. The track presumably follows the line of the public footpath through the phase 2 area although little can be seen on the ground. (see also Feature 1 as the two tracks may converge to form one feature)

*Recommendations for further assessment: None*

*Recommendations for mitigatory measures: Intensive watching brief*

### **Feature 3      The Church Way**

SH44557363C

*Period: Medieval or Post-medieval*

*Category: B Impact: Considerable*

White (1977-78, 26-7) identifies a road running from Rhos Engan to Llangristiolus Church via Hendy/Tyddyn Bleddyn named "Church Way" on a Bodorgan estate map. He notes that a roughly cobbled causeway is visible at SH44507465. This map reference appears to be incorrect being 1km north of the road. A well preserved 50m length of road survives at SH44447365 suggesting a simple error in White's NGR. The road is about 1.8m wide with large natural kerb stones and rough small stone metalling. Elsewhere the road is visible as a slight bank running alongside a field wall between SH44687362 and SH 44457363.

*Recommendations for further assessment: None*

*Recommendations for mitigatory measures: Detailed recording, intensive watching brief*

### **Feature 4      Possible relict field bank.**

SH44487359C

*Period: ?Post medieval*

*Category: C Impact: Considerable*

An indistinct low bank can be traced for about 60m. This probably corresponds to one of the field boundaries on the 18<sup>th</sup> century estate map.

*Recommendations for further assessment: None*

*Recommendations for mitigatory measures: Basic recording, intensive watching brief*

### **Feature 5      Pond**

SH44457362

*Period: Post medieval*

*Category: D Impact: Considerable*

A small pond can be seen beside the Church Way. The large revetment stones on the edge of the road suggests that they may be contemporary. It is, however, now supplied with water via a plastic pipe. It probably functions as an animal drinking hole.

*Recommendations for further assessment: None*

*Recommendations for mitigatory measures: Detailed recording, environmental sampling if appropriate.*

### **Feature 6      Pond**

SH44457365

*Period: Modern*

*Category: D Impact: Considerable*

A small pond lies in the corner of the field and now mostly drains into pond 5. A pile of overgrown spoil nearby suggests that it is modern

*Recommendations for further assessment: None*

*Recommendations for mitigatory measures: Basic recording*

#### **Feature 7      Site of Ty Bach**

SH44407397

*Period: Medieval/Post-medieval*

*Category: E Impact: Considerable*

The estate map indicates that a small house and garden was standing in this area in 1776. The field is somewhat uneven in this area but no definite structure can be seen.

*Recommendations for further assessment: Trial excavation*

*Recommendations for mitigatory measures: Dependant on trial excavation*

#### **Feature 8      Possible platform/terrace**

SH44537378

*Period: ?Post-medieval*

*Category: E Impact: Considerable*

A partially ploughed-out terrace with dimensions of 25m x 14m is cut with its longest side into the slope. This could either be a surviving part of the earlier field system or possibly a medieval settlement site.

*Recommendations for further assessment: Trial excavation*

*Recommendations for mitigatory measures: Dependant on trial excavation*

#### **Feature 9      Relict field boundary**

SH44607385C

*Period: Medieval/Post-medieval*

*Category: C Impact: Considerable*

An indistinct bank crosses the field, and appears to correspond to a boundary shown on the 1776 estate map.

*Recommendations for further assessment: None*

*Recommendations for mitigatory measures: Intensive watching brief*

#### **Feature 10      Platform**

SH44607390

*Period: Unknown*

*Category: E Impact: Considerable*

An indistinct platform is cut into the slope at this point. This could indicate the remains of a medieval long hut

*Recommendations for further assessment: Trial excavation*

*Recommendations for mitigatory measures: Dependant on trial excavation*

#### **Feature 11      Former quarry**

*SH44657365*

*Period: Post-medieval/modern*

*Category: D Impact: Considerable*

A quarry is visible on the 1939 aerial photographs. This has subsequently been mostly backfilled.

*Recommendations for further assessment: None*

*Recommendations for mitigatory measures: Basic recording*

General (Complete Phase 2 Development Area)

#### **Feature 12      Field boundaries**

*SH44517384C*

*Period: Post-medieval*

*Category: D Impact: Considerable*

The current field boundaries consist of a mixture of dry-stone walls and stone faced *cloddiau* (field banks). These should be recorded in advance of destruction.

*Recommendations for further assessment: None*

*Recommendations for mitigatory measures: Basic recording*

#### **Feature 13      Relict field system**

*SH44517384C*

*Period: Medieval/Post-medieval*

*Category: E Impact: Considerable*

Most of the fields within the phase 1 and 2 development areas are uneven and may retain some elements of the field system shown on the 1776 estate map.

*Recommendations for further assessment: None*

*Recommendations for mitigatory measures: Intermittent watching brief during topsoil strip.*

## **5      SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The phase two development comprises an area of 18ha of improved open fields. The 1776 estate map shows that the area was formerly divided up into smaller fields standing to the north west of the medieval township of Lledwigan Llys.

- A dwelling, *Ty Bach*, (Feature 7) was shown standing on the ridge at the north-west of the area. The ground at the site of the former building is a little uneven but no definite remains are now visible. Further evaluation by trial trenching is recommended here in order to assess the level of survival of *Ty Bach*.
- Elsewhere occasional fragments of low banks appear to correspond to earlier field boundaries (Features 4 and 9). Basic recording is recommended here.
- Two heavily ploughed platforms were recorded during the field evaluation and these could be the remains of medieval buildings on the edge of the township. Trial trenching is recommended here in order to assess the nature of these features.



- Parts of a trackway known as Church Way (Feature 3) can be seen within the phase-2 development area. Preservation *in situ* (i.e. avoidance) of the visible portions along with a comprehensive watching brief along the line of the rest of the road is the preferred mitigatory measure for this feature. If this is not possible, detailed recording and a comprehensive watching brief for the whole feature is recommended.
- A further trackway (Features 1 and 2) also runs through the area. A comprehensive watching brief along its projected line is recommended
- Basic recording is recommended for other minor features (Features 5, 6, and 11) and field boundaries (Feature 12) within the area.
- In addition to recommendations for specific features, much of the area must be seen as having a fairly high archaeological potential given its proximity to the medieval township. A large part of the three fields at the north-west of the area is steeply sloping and therefore has a low potential, as do the areas of rock outcrop. The areas of higher potential are therefore the two fields at the south-east of the development and the level parts of the remaining three fields, about 9 hectares in all. Trial trenching covering up to 5% of this area along with selected gradiometer survey concentrating on the area around Church Way is recommended. Several part of the area will not be suitable for geophysical survey due to the proximity of bedrock so 2-3 hectares of gradiometer survey is recommended.
- Elements of the former field system (Feature 13) and occupation pattern may have survived as subsurface features. It should also be noted that several burnt mounds were found just to the north of the phase 2 area. An intermittent watching brief is therefore recommended during the topsoil strip across the whole of the phase 2 development area.

Further mitigatory recommendations will be made depending on the results of the assessment.

### ***5.1 Summary of recommendations***

#### *Further assessment*

- Trial Excavation Features 7, 8, and 10. Up to 5% of high potential area
- Geophysical survey 2 to 3 hectares of high potential area

#### *Mitigatory recommendations*

- Avoidance (preferred option) Feature 3.
- Intensive watching brief Features 1, 2 and 3
- Intermittent watching brief Feature 13 (i.e. complete phase 2 area)
- Detailed Recording (secondary option) Feature 3
- Basic recording Features 4, 5, 6, 9, 11 and 12
- Further mitigatory recommendations will be made depending on the results of the assessment.

## 6 REFERENCES AND OTHER SOURCES

### 6.1 Published references

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Clark, 1990 *Seeing Beneath the Soil*  
Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales, 1937 *Inventory, Anglesey*  
White, R. B., 1977-78 Bodbenwyn *Proceedings of the Anglesey Antiquarian Society and Field Club*

### 6.2 Cartographic and Unpublished references

#### 5.2.1 Gwynedd Sites and Monuments Record

- GAT Report No 70, 1993 *A5 Anglesey Improvements stage 1, west of Llanfairpwllgwyngyll to A5114 Nant Turnpike. Archaeological assessment*  
GAT Report No 106, 1994 *A5 Anglesey Improvements Stage 1 Nant, Llangristiolus Archaeological evaluation – Phase 2*  
GAT Report No 308 1998 *Medieval Settlement on Anglesey, Gazetteer of settlement units*  
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Maynard, D., The Burnt Mounds in Davidson, A.F., and Hughes G., *Excavations in Anglesey 1999, The Anglesey DBFO scheme, Site Narratives, specialist reports and discussion draft report c.2002*  
OS maps 1:10000 1975  
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#### 6.2.2 University of Wales Archives, Bangor

- Baron Hill manuscript 4960 sheet 85 1776

#### 6.2.3 Aerial Photographs held by NMR Aberystwyth

- CPE/UK 1939, JAN 18 '47 3186-7 and 4184 and 4185

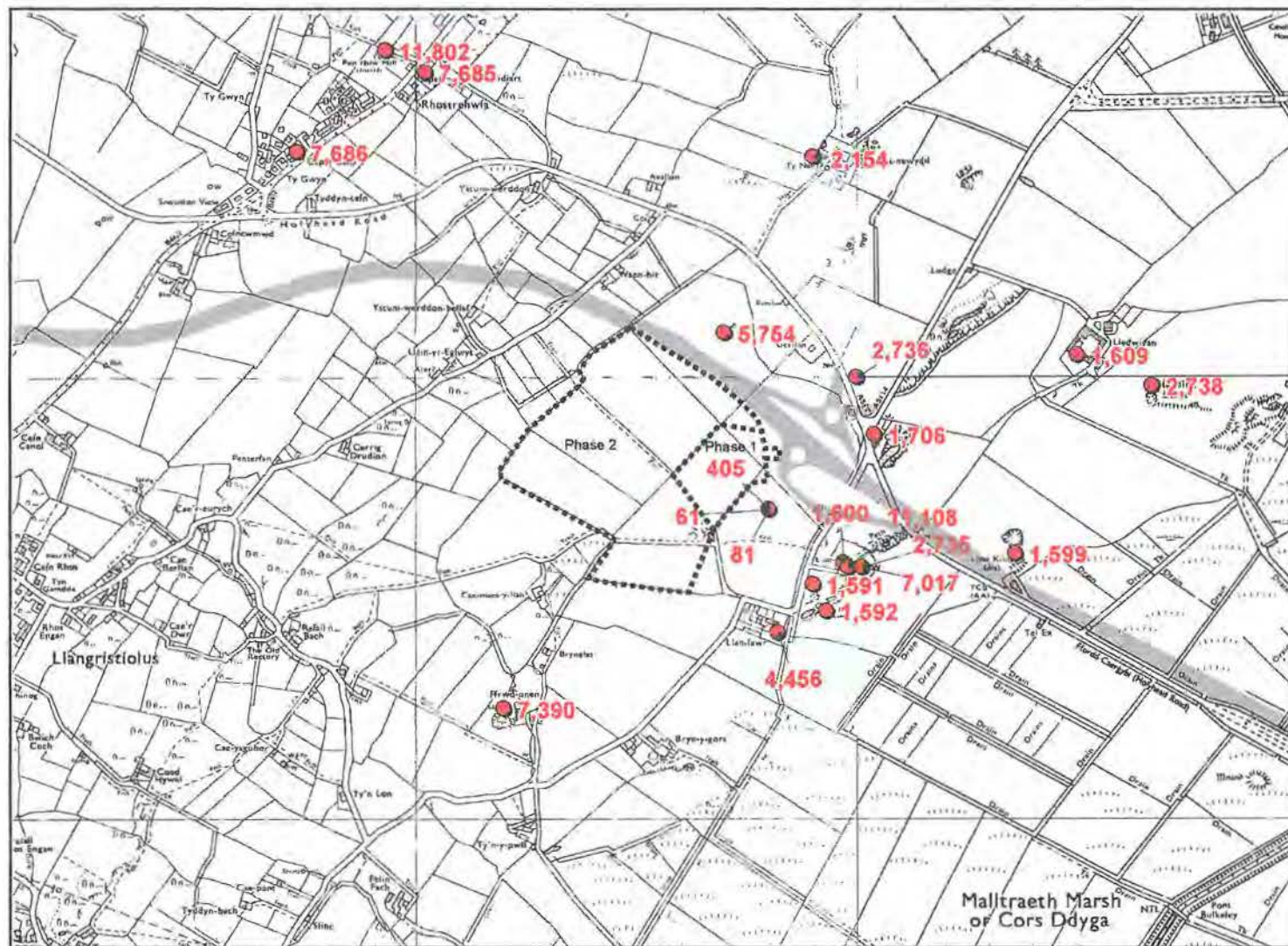


Fig.1 Sites within 1km of the development







Fig. 3 Features transcribed from the aerial photographs



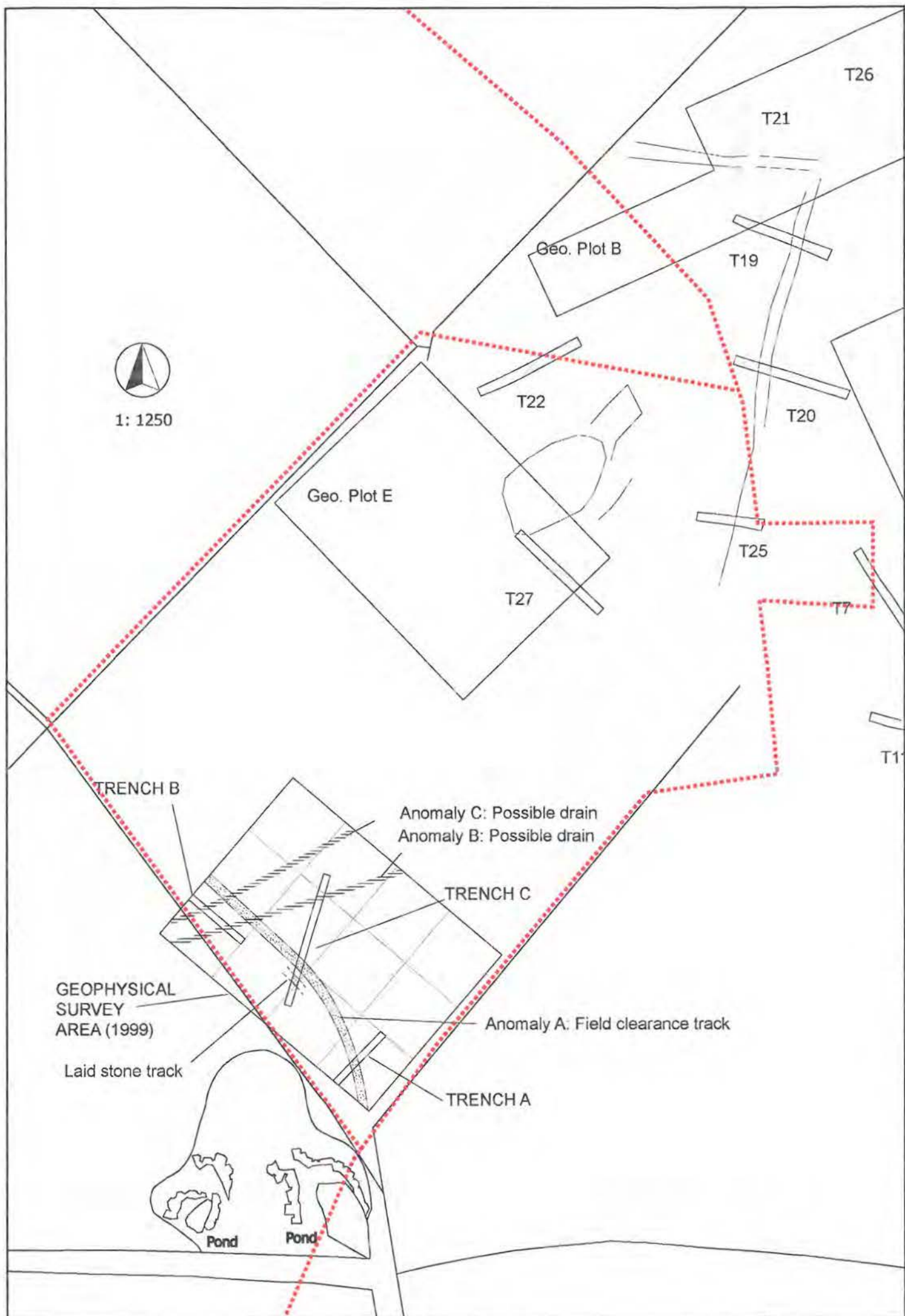


Fig. 4 Results from the 1993 and 1999 evaluations

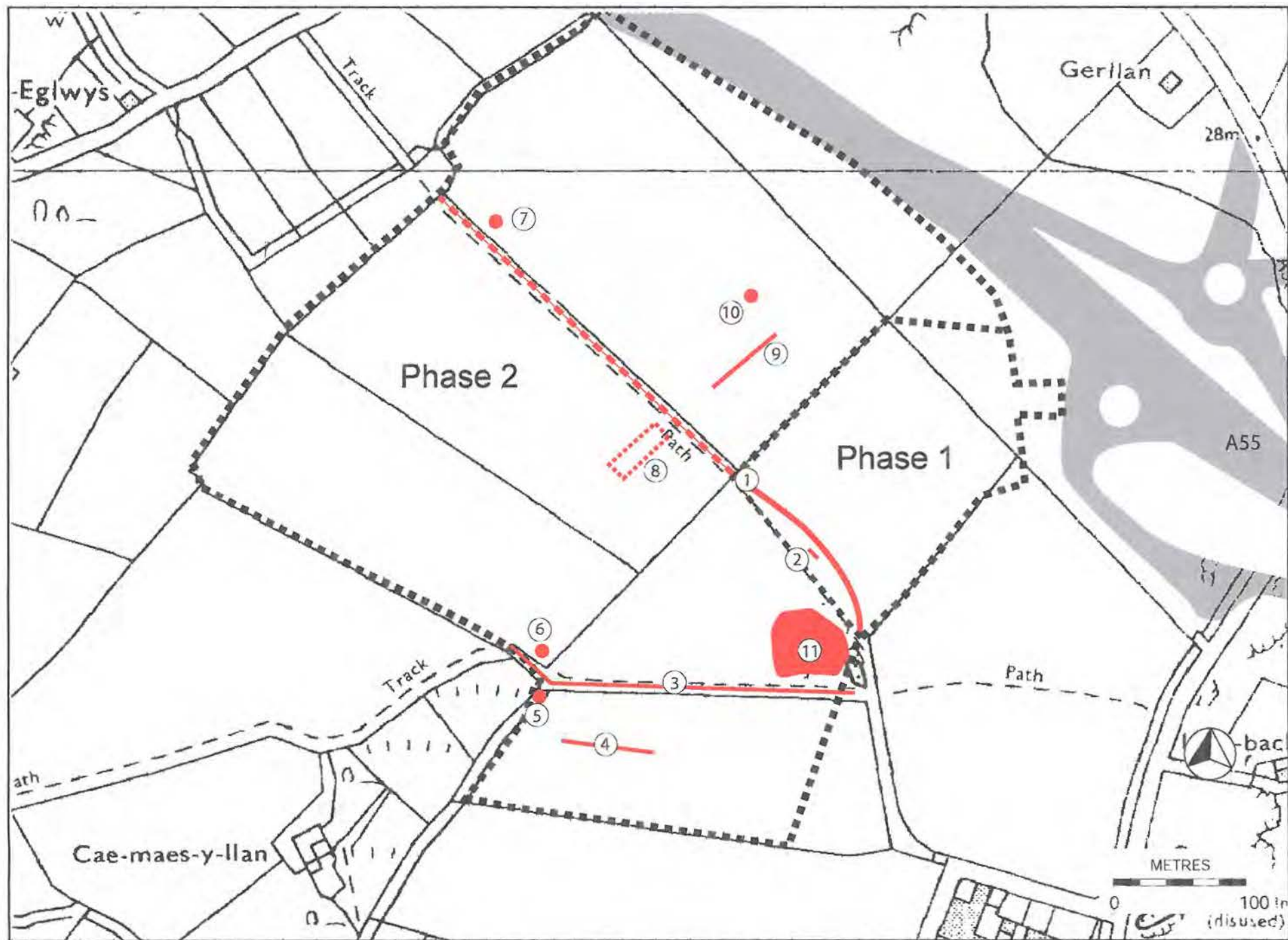


Fig. 5 Features identified during the field survey



