
Land at Ty Mawr Holyhead Anglesey



Archaeological Watching Brief

GAT Project No. 1919

Report No. 656

October 2006

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Prepared for Atkins Ltd

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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TY MAWR, HOLYHEAD (G1919)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief has been conducted during geotechnical investigations at the proposed Ty Mawr Business Park, Holyhead. A total of 152 test pits were opened across the site with the intention of identifying the depth of the bedrock and differentiating the layers of strata extant between the topsoil and the bedrock. Works were carried out between 26th June and 11th July 2006. The Gwynedd Archaeological Trust had previously evaluated the site in 2001 and 2004 and identified several areas of archaeological interest related to prehistoric and Romano-British activity, as well as post-medieval agricultural activity. The watching brief identified thirteen test pits with evidence of archaeological activity. Most of the pits represented post-medieval farming in the form of field drains and field boundaries but there was also limited evidence of prehistoric activity: Test Pit 74 contained a struck flint, whilst Test Pit 105 contained a thumbnail scraper. There were no features associated with either example and the scraper from Test Pit 105 was recovered from the topsoil, but they did suggest localised prehistoric activity. Neither example was located near any of the sites identified during the 2001/2004 evaluation phases. Test Pit 69, however, contained a stone surface covered by a possible occupation horizon. No datable artefacts were recovered but the test pit was located close to the site of Iron Age/Romano-British activity identified during the 2004 evaluation, and, by extension, could be seen as part of the same activity. No archaeological remains were identified in the remaining test pits.

1 INTRODUCTION

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust has been asked by the Atkins Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the geological test pit phase of the Ty Mawr development site.

It is proposed to develop an area of land at Ty Mawr Farm, Holyhead, within a plot comprising some 50 ha. centred on NGR SH254808 (see Figure 1 for the location of the site).

An initial archaeological assessment of a larger area was undertaken in 2000 (GAT Report no. 389, November 2000) which was followed by a programme of field evaluation in 2001 (GAT Report no. 459, June 2002). This work revealed a high density of archaeological sites, for which further archaeological evaluation was required before their full extent and importance could be assessed.

A brief was prepared by the Development Control Archaeologist at Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services, outlining a potential programme of works. This was undertaken as a staged process, of which the first stage was a geophysical survey (Stratascan, 2004). The subsequent project design provided a method statement for undertaking trial excavation, taking into account the results from the first phase of evaluation, from the second phase of geophysical survey, and from the proposed impact from the *Preliminary Master Plan* (Drawing Number 56080/PP/01). The design had been requested by Symonds Group Limited on behalf of Welsh Development Agency, and was prepared by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT June 2004).

A synthesis of the results of all phases and general recommendations were given in GAT Report 554 (November 2004) and GAT Report 561 (December 2005). This report needs to be read in conjunction with these reports and with GAT Report 459 (June 2002), and Stratascan Report 1845 (May 2004).

2 SPECIFICATION AND PROJECT DESIGN

The basic requirement was for a watching brief of the proposed area, in order to mitigate, through preservation by record, the impact of the geotechnical investigation on the archaeological features within the area concerned. This was undertaken in accordance with the *Tender Information and Specification for Archaeological Watching Brief* provided by Atkins Ltd. (Document Reference: 001(Wbspec) rps (rev2).doc).

The aims of the watching brief, as defined by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA Sept 2001) were:

- to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established with sufficient accuracy in advance of disruptive works;
- to provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support the treatment to a satisfactory or proper standard.

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:

- Watching brief
- Report

3 METHODS AND TECHNIQUES

3.1 Watching Brief

The watching brief took place between the 26th of June and the 11th of July 2006. The aims of the watching brief were to monitor the excavation of 152 geological test pits.

Two backhoe excavators with 0.60m wide ditching buckets were used throughout the watching brief.

The work was undertaken by *Geotechnics Ltd* and involved the excavation of 152 test pits to establish the composition of the underlying soil and geology. A total of ten soakaway pits were opened across the site to establish the water permeability of the geology and a series of nine test pits were opened to examine the extent of the peat deposits in the central wetland area.

3.2 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.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Topography and Geology

(Reproduced with amendments from GAT Report Number **459**, 2002)

The study area is located on Holy Island (Figure 1). The study area comprises an area c.50 ha. in size, centred on NGR SH254808. The study area lies to the southeast of the town of Holyhead and is located to the south and west of the Anglesey Aluminium industrial complex, and the A55 Expressway and the Holyhead to Chester railway line. To the south it borders the outskirts of the village of Trearddur Bay.

Geologically Anglesey is composed largely of Pre-Cambrian rocks, most notably the Mona Complex. These bedded rocks have undergone intense pressures leaving them deformed and folded, and volcanic events have resulted in their interbedding with lavas, ashes and tuffs. These make up much of the bedrock of Holy Island (Davies 1972).

The bedrock under the study area described above is composed of pale green chlorite schists, part of the New Harbour Group of the Mona Complex (GAT 459). Boulder clay overlies this, with the bedrock outcropping in places, and occasional patches of glacial gravels. The soils formed over these substrates are brown earths of the Rocky Gaerwen and Trisant types (Geological and soil survey maps). These soils can carry crops or excellent pasture, and were frequently chosen for settlement in the prehistoric period. The Rocky Gaerwen soils are shallow with frequent rock outcrops, and farms and fields tend to be smaller on these soils than on deeper soils (Keeley 1987).

Like much of Holy Island, the topography of the study area is characterised by northeast to south-west aligned rocky ridges within intervening boggy hollows. This is particularly noticeable around the western, central part of the study area. The bedrock is never far below the surface, and occasionally outcrops as small crags and knolls. Most of the area is used currently for grazing sheep and cattle, with some small paddocks around Tyddyn-uchaf used for horses. The grasses are, therefore, generally kept short and largely weed free, although gorse and bramble grow on the rocky ridges. Some fields and paddocks have been planted with trees, making the recognition of sites almost impossible in these areas.

A pollen study was carried out to the northwest of Trefignath burial chamber (GAT 459). This suggested that the vegetation was of a scrubby sub-arctic type. The woodland developed in the usual sequence, from open woodland with birch to denser, mixed oak forest, but with an unusual amount of willow. The climax forest contained oak and elm with hazel as an under-storey. A band of peat, with little pollen survival due to the drying out of the bog, was dated to about the start of the Neolithic period. The band contained charcoal and other evidence for burning, suggesting forest clearance in the immediate area. When the pollen record continued it showed that grassland and arable fields had replaced the forest. In the medieval period, and later, expanding arable farming caused increased erosion into the boggy hollows to the north of the rocky ridges.

4.2 Archaeological and historical background

(Reproduced from GAT Report Number 459, 2002)

The town of Holyhead expanded in size and importance after the development of the port for use by packet boats to Ireland, but it has a long history. There is evidence of Neolithic, Bronze Age and later prehistoric activity. Two Neolithic tombs lie within the study area, and will be discussed in detail below. Four Neolithic polished stone axes have been found in the northern part of Holy Island (Lynch 1991). Those found closest to the study area are two axes from the Graiglwyd axe factory, above Penmaenmawr, found when excavating a hole for a turntable railway near Kingsland in 1926 (PRN 2507, SH 2504 8165), and one axe of unspecified stone found at Penllech Nest (PRN 2506, SH 251 816).

Two Bronze Age barrows were prominently situated on top of Holyhead Mountain (PRN 15691, 15692), though little can be seen of them now, and another at Garn (PRN 3804). There was also a cemetery of three barrows at Porth Dafarch (PRN 1772-4). A barrow was discovered under the early Christian cemetery at Ty Mawr (SH 2520 8135). The Ty Mawr standing stone (PRN 2501) is one of several such stones in this part of Holy Island. There is another to the south, next to Stanley Mill (PRN 2009), and a rare pairing of two stones just over 3m apart, to the west at Plas Meilw (PRN 2748) (Lynch 1991).

The island has several notable Iron Age and Roman period sites. Holyhead is dominated by its mountain, to the north-west of the town. The summit is enclosed by a stone rampart wall forming the hillfort of Caer y Twr (PRN 1760). A much smaller promontory fort, Dinas on the south coast of Holy Island (PRN 807), is probably also Iron Age. This promontory is surrounded by high cliffs and a low bank runs along the edge of the chasm, which separates it from the mainland. These forts were probably defensive refuges, and the population lived in more hospitable areas. Towards the foot of the south-western slope of Holyhead Mountain are a group of huts near another Ty Mawr (PRN 1755) and a similar hut group overlies the Bronze Age barrows at Porth Dafarch (PRN 2754). Excavation at Ty Mawr demonstrated that the stone huts belonged to the 1st millennium BC, but with some activity in the 3rd century AD, as well as earlier prehistoric and post-Roman settlement evidence (Smith 1985). The finds from Porth Dafarch dated the huts to the Roman period (Lynch 1991, RCAHMW 1937).

A Roman fort was constructed at Holyhead towards the end of the 3rd century or later, as a naval base against Irish raiders (Lynch 1972). A Roman coin hoard was found in the area in 1710. The coins were buried in a brass vessel, and all dated to the 4th century (PRN 2503, SH 26 81). To the north of the Aluminium works, on the shore of Penrhos Beach, Stanley (1868) recorded a 'Danish fort'. The site (PRN 2509) is now under the main road, and all traces of it have been destroyed, so it is not known whether the fort was Iron Age, Roman or actually attributable to the Vikings.

Holy Island was of considerable importance in the early Christian period, with the *clas* site of Caer Gybi large enough to attract the attention of the Vikings in 961 (Edwards 1986, 24). The foundation of this monastic community by St Cybi is traditionally dated to the mid 6th century AD, and it was presumably located within the Roman fort; the present church on the site dates from the 13th century. There is an unusual concentration of early Christian sites known, or suspected, on the island. These include a cemetery of long-cist graves, dating to approximately 6th to 8th century AD, discovered during the construction of the A55 dual carriageway, to the north-west of Ty Mawr Farm. At this site the graves were located around, and cut into, the remains of a Bronze Age barrow. Another cemetery, of similar date, lies to the southwest of the study area, at Tywyn y Capel, the site of a medieval chapel on the shore of Trearddur Bay (Edwards 1986, 31). There were also cist burials found at Porth Dafarch. A chapel and well formerly lay to the north-west of the study area, where there are documentary and map references to Capel Ulo, and Fynnon Ulo. However, recent trial trenching in the area failed to reveal any archaeological evidence (GAT report 382).

The use of Holyhead port increased in the reign of Elizabeth I, when it became the departure point for the Royal Mail to Ireland. During Oliver Cromwell's Commonwealth Holyhead was garrisoned, and regular packet boats sailed to Ireland (Hughes and Williams 1981). The port subsequently grew until, by the early 19th century, it was the principle port for Ireland.

During the 17th century the road across Anglesey to Holyhead was probably just a rough track, but the forerunner to the bridge at Four Mile Bridge already joined Holy Island to Anglesey by 1578 (Hughes and Williams 1981). One of the earliest maps of Anglesey, published by Speed in 1630, marks Pont-Rhydbont (the bridge at Four Mile Bridge), and just to the west of it is Llansanfraid (St Bride's or Trearddur Bay), the only place marked on Holy Island, other than Holyhead itself (Evans 1972).

In 1765 the road from the Menai ferries to Holyhead was turnpiked, and much improved (Ramage 1987). However, transport was still difficult until Telford built his new London to Holyhead road (the A5), which arrived on Holy Island in 1823. The Stanley Embankment (grade II listed, PRN 20074) carried the road over the Afon Lasinwen, the tidal strait between Holy Island and Anglesey, replacing the ferries and fords (GAT Report 251). The embankment was designed by Thomas Telford, started in 1822 and opened in 1823; its construction created the body of water now referred to as the Inland Sea. In 1846-8 the railway line was constructed along the southern side of the embankment (GAT 204, p251). The railway runs along the northern boundary of the study area, separating it from the Aluminium works. Major improvements were also made to the harbour throughout the 19th century (Hughes and Williams 1981, GAT Report 64, 251).

The coming of Telford's road and the railway significantly changed the landscape of Holy Island, but a comparison between the 18th and late 19th century maps show that the layout of the fields in the study area did not change considerably. There was no parliamentary enclosure of open fields on Anglesey, as occurred in other parts of Britain at this time, but some common land was enclosed by Private Act (Carr 1982), such as the small areas of common land around Ty Mawr enclosed in 1861 (WPE 68/128).

A large number of defensive works were constructed in 1940-41 to resist the invasion of Britain. Pillboxes were an important component of these defences, and more than 18,000 were built during 1940 (Brown *et al* 1995). In the Second World War Holyhead was strategically important, as it was on the route both to Ireland and to the port of Liverpool. Pillboxes, arranged in a rough line across the island, defended the middle of Holy Island and the Inland Sea, preventing enemy troop movement on Holy Island and defending the approaches to Holyhead. The line starts at the south-western end at Trearddur Bay. Behind the Trearddur Bay Hotel (SH 2519 7931) are two circular-plan pillboxes (grade II listed, 20079). Another is set in the grounds of Trearddur House (SH 2546 7934, grade II listed, 20080). Closer to the study area one (SH 2721 8029) is situated to cover the south side of the Stanley

Embankment, and the other (SH 2707 7991, PRN 7213) is a little further south, overlooking the Inland Sea. A related pillbox, not previously recorded, was found within the study area, see below.

The Penrhos family, who stabilised their surname to Owen in the early 16th century (Richards 1940), owned most of the land in the study area. The original house at Penrhos was said to have been built during the reign of Henry VIII (RCAHMW 1937). In 1763 Margaret Owen, the heiress to Hugh Owen, married John Stanley and the Penrhos Estate passed to the Stanleys of Alderley (Ramage 1972, 1987, Richards 1940). W. O. Stanley was a noted antiquarian, and the Penrhos estate maps provide valuable historical evidence.

The area presently consists of a number of farmsteads surrounded by regularly shaped fields. The majority of the farmsteads are now abandoned and ruinous. The field layout was generally established by 1769, but numerous fields have been amalgamated at various periods since then, and some boundaries have been lost or altered. Unlike the area to the north of Holyhead (Penrhos estate map II, 772, map 14), there were no large open fields here in the late 18th century. There were a number of small farms, often associated with small, irregular in-by fields or tofts, which have since disappeared. Estate maps of the 18th century also show that some of the present settlements, such as Trefignath, have moved slightly from their original locations. These deserted or migrated settlements will have left archaeological remains, although regular ploughing has removed most surface indications.

4.3 Results of the Archaeological Watching Brief

Identified deposits and features were recorded photographically and by notes and sketches. The archive is held by GAT under the project number (**G1919**).

Each test pit will be described separately. For their individual locations see Figures 2 to 6.

Test Pit 001

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 2.70m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located to the south of an enclosed wetland area, on a gentle north to south slope near a field boundary. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.25m and was followed by a thick deposit of boulder clay. The test pit was stopped at 2.70m below ground level.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 002

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 1.80m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located towards the southern end of the development area. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.28m and was followed by a succession of glacial deposits, including a possible palaeochannel at 1.30m below ground level. The test pit was stopped at 1.80m below ground level due to the influx of water.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 003

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 1.20m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located north of a rock outcrop. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.20m and was followed by a 0.10m silt deposit. Below this was a 0.20m thick orange clay/silt that was followed by a silver grey silt/clay, 0.70m thick. Bedrock was directly below this at 1.20m below ground level.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 004

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 0.20m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located on the crest of a large rock outcrop at the east end of an enclosed field. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.20m and was directly above the bedrock.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 005

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 2.00m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located at the southwestern end of a large enclosed field along a slight north to south slope. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.30m and was followed by a 1.70m thick glacial deposit.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 006

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 0.65m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located towards the centre of an enclosed pasture field. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.30m and was followed by a 0.35m thick orange-brown silt. Directly below this was the bedrock (metamorphic schist).

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 007

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 0.90m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located to the south of Test Pit 12 and south of a rock outcrop. It was also c.75 to 100m to the west of the Trefigniath burial chamber. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.30m and was followed by 0.60m of glacial silt. The bedrock was identified at 0.90m below ground level.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 008

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 1.00m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was situated on a rock outcrop at the northwestern end of an enclosed field. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.35m and was followed by a 0.65m thick deposit of silt.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 009

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 1.40m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located within a large enclosed field. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.40m and was followed by a 0.50m thick deposit of boulder clay. Below this was a 0.50m thick manganese-rich deposit. The test pit was stopped at 1.40m due to the influx of the water table.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 010

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 2.10m (l x w x d)

Description

This test pit was located to the northwest of the Trefigniath burial chamber (PRN 2500) in an adjacent field. The field was generally flat with occasional outcrops of bedrock. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.45m and was followed by a 0.60m thick clay-rich deposit. The remainder of the test pit comprised clay-rich silt. The test pit was stopped at 2.10m below ground level due to the influx of the water table.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 011

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 1.75m (l x w x d)

Description

The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.40m and was followed by 1.35m thick silt-rich deposit. The bedrock was identified at 1.75m below ground level.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 012

Size: 2.80m x 0.60m x 2.80m (l x w x d)

Description

The topsoil comprised a grey-brown loam 0.30m deep, followed by a light orange-brown silt-clay, 0.40m deep. Below this subsoil was a coarse, grey brown sand/gravel, 1.90m thick. This glacial deposit was directly above a bedrock formation (metamorphic). The bedrock was recorded at 2.80m below ground level.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 013

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 2.60m (l x w x d)

Description

This test pit was located within a stock pen to the east of Lôn Trefigniath. The stock pen was a modern construction with hardcore flooring. The first 0.55m below ground level comprised demolition/levelling material, including stone, slate, brick and mortar, surfaced with a layer of gravel. This was followed by a yellow-brown silt/sand, 1.35m thick and then a 0.70m thick deposit of compacted large boulders in a pale yellow-grey sand. The test pit was stopped at 2.60m.

Interpretation

The floor surface for the stock pen was of twentieth century construction and removed any earlier traces of agricultural activity. It appears that the topsoil was removed and the floor surface placed onto a glacial deposit.

Test Pit 014

Size: 3.10m x 0.60m x 2.15m (l x w x d)

Description

The topsoil was 0.30m thick and comprised a dark-brown loam. Below this, of similar depth, was a light brown sandy loam, followed by compact gravel-rich sand, identified as a glacial deposit. This deposit was 1.55m thick and was directly above the bedrock (metamorphic schist). The bedrock was identified at 2.15m below ground level.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 015

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 1.00m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located on flat pasture with a boundary wall to the south. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.15m and was followed by a 0.20m thick deposit of leached topsoil. Below this was a 0.65m thick deposit of red-brown clay/silt with inclusions of shale fragments. The bedrock was identified below this at 1.00m below ground level.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 016

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 0.80m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located to the northwest of Test Pit 015 within the same enclosed field and to the north of a rock outcrop. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.40m and was followed by a 0.40m thick orange-brown silt/clay with frequent manganese flecking. The bedrock was identified at 0.80m below ground level.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 017

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 3.00m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located on the crest of a north-south orientated slope with a fence line to the immediate west. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.25m and was followed by a 0.25m thick orange-brown clay/silt. Below this was a gravel-rich orange-grey deposit with frequent inclusions of small sub-rounded stones, which continued to the base of the test pit. The test pit was stopped at 3.00m below ground level; the bedrock was not identified.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 018

Size: 3.10m x 0.60m x 3.10m (l x w x d)

Description

The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.25m and comprised a dark-brown loam; a red-brown stone-rich deposit, 0.25m deep, followed this. Below this was a 2.60m thick deposit of glacial sand-gravel. The test pit was stopped at 3.10m below ground level.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 019

Size: 3.20m x 0.60m x 3.40m (l x w x d)

Description

The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.30m and comprised a light-brown silt/clay, followed by mid-brown silt-clay subsoil, 0.20m deep. Two glacial deposits followed this: an orange-brown gravel-rich deposit, 2.50m deep and grey-brown gravel-rich silt, 0.70m deep. Bedrock was identified at 3.40m.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 020

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 3.30m (l x w x d)

Description

This test pit was located below an outcropping ridge, with a modern wire fence to the west. This fence replaced an earlier stone-built boundary (now dilapidated), whilst the existence of other redundant field boundaries within the local area was suggested by two upstanding stones, 26.0m east of the test pit, which may have been used as gateposts.

The topsoil within the test pit was extant to a depth of 0.45m and was succeeded by orange-brown sand, 0.80m deep. A 0.85m thick deposit of pale yellow-brown sand followed this, with a light grey sand/gravel continuing to the bottom of the test pit, which was stopped at 3.30m below ground level. The bedrock was not identified.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 021

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 3.70m (l x w x d)

Description

This test pit was located 50m to the northeast of Test Pit 20, along a gentle west to east slope. The first 1.10m of the test pit contained a combination of topsoil/hillwash/ploughsoil. The topsoil was visible as a slightly greyer deposit within the first 0.30m of the test pit. Pale yellow-brown sand followed these deposits and was extant to a depth of 2.20m below ground level. The remainder of the test pit contained a deposit of light brown grey sand/gravel that was similar to a deposit identified in Test Pit 20. The test pit was stopped at 3.70m below ground level.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 022

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 1.55m (l x w x d)

Description

This test pit was located to the southeast of Test Pit 25 on gentle west to east slope within improved pasture. A boggy area was located 60.0m to the east. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.30m,

followed by an orange-brown sand/gravel, 0.75m thick. A grey fine sand followed this and continued to the base of the test pit, which was stopped at 1.55m below ground level.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 023

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 0.80m (l x w x d)

Description

This test pit was located to the east of Lôn Trefigniath and the stock pen within improved pasture, along a gentle slope. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.25m, followed by an orange-brown silt/sand with lenses of light grey stone fragments (schist metamorphic), 0.55m thick. Below this was the bedrock (schist metamorphic). The test pit was stopped at this point.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 024

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 3.10m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located downslope and to the northwest of Test Pit 23 on level ground/improved pasture. There was an outcropping of stone to the south and a linear stand of trees to the west (possibly an old field boundary). The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.60m, followed by an orange silt/clay, 0.50m thick. The remainder of the test pit contained a light brown silt/sand. The test pit was stopped at 3.10m.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 025

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 2.00m (l x w x d)

Description

This test pit was located to the south of Test Pit 28. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.40m, followed by a mid-brown silt clay, 0.50m thick. A light grey-brown sand/clay followed this. The test pit was stopped at 2.00m below ground level.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit, except for several sherds of modern glazed pottery indicative of farming activity.

Test Pit 026

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 3.30m (l x w x d)

Description

This test pit was located towards the eastern side of a large, irregular shaped pasture field. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.55m, followed by a 1.25m thick deposit of yellow-brown silt/sand/gravel. The remainder of the test pit contained a deposit of brown-grey coarse sand/gravel. The test pit was stopped at 3.30m due to the influx of the water table.

Interpretation

There were no archaeological features within the test pit.

Test Pit 027

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 2.40m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located to the north of Test Pit 26, where the ground sloped from the southwest to the northeast. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.30m, followed by a pale grey-brown silt/sand/gravel, 1.40m thick. The remainder of the test pit contained light brown-grey coarse sand. The test pit was stopped at 2.40m due to the influx of the water table.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 028

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 3.15m (l x w x d)

Description

This test pit was located 40m to the east of Test Pit 29, towards the base of a gentle south to north slope within improved pasture. A drystone field wall was located 10m to the north. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.35m, followed by a mid-brown grey silt/clay, identified as a gleyed ploughsoil or hillwash, 0.30m thick. A pale grey sand/clay, 1.85m thick, followed this. The remainder of the test pit contained a light yellow-brown sand/gravel. The test pit was stopped at 3.15m below ground level.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 029

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 3.10m (l x w x d)

Description

This test pit was located on moderately sloping ground (south to north), to the northwest of Test Pit 24, near the stand of trees/former field boundary. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.40m, followed by an orange-brown ploughsoil/hillwash, 0.80m thick. A 0.50m thick deposit of pale orange silt/clay followed this. The remainder of the test pit contained a mid-grey brown coarse sand, 1.40m thick. The test pit was stopped at 3.10m.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 030

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 3.40m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located towards the bottom of a north-south aligned slope, c.20.0m west of Lôn Trefigniath. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.60m. There were two large stones in the topsoil, one of which was 1.00m wide and the other 0.50m wide. Below the topsoil was a 0.60m thick deposit of orange-brown silt with occasional inclusions of small sub-rounded stones. A 1.10m thick deposit of brown gravel-rich silt followed this. Below this was a 1.10m thick deposit of grey clay-silt with frequent inclusions of shale. The bedrock was identified at 3.40m below ground level.

Interpretation

The two large stones identified in the topsoil were thought to have either tumbled down the nearby hillock or were placed by the farmer in the area. They were not thought to represent any archaeological activity of note.

Test Pit 031

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 3.50m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located c.10m to the west of Lôn Trefigniath within a flat enclosed pasture area. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.30m and was followed by a 0.40m thick deposit of compact orange gravel-rich silt, at the western end of the test pit. Below the topsoil, in the centre and eastern end of the test pit, was a 1.40m thick deposit of orange, pebble-rich silt. Below this deposit was a 1.00m thick deposit of manganese/gravel-rich silt with frequent small sub-rounded stones. The remainder of the test pit comprised a sand/gravel deposit. The test pit was bottomed at 3.50m.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 032

Size: 3.40m x 0.60m x 1.85m (l x w x d)

Description

The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.50m and was followed by a 0.52m thick deposit of orange silt/clay. The remainder of the test pit comprised mottled orange-grey sand/gravel. The test pit was stopped at 1.85m.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 033

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 3.00m (l x w x d)

Description

This test pit was located towards the eastern end of the development area away from the boggy area, below a shallow ridge, within improved pasture. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.30m, followed

by a light grey silt/sand, 1.40m thick (glacial). A light brown-grey gravel, 1.30m thick, followed this deposit. The test pit was stopped at 3.00m due to collapse caused by the influx of the water table.

Interpretation

A potential feature was identified within the test pit and was interpreted as a former tree bole.

Test Pit 034

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 2.00m (l x w x d)

Description

This test pit was located 20.0m to the southeast of Test Pit 36 at the base of a modern wire fence field boundary. The test pit was situated between the east end of a northeast to southwest-aligned rocky ridge and the east end of a boggy area.

The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.30m, followed by a yellow-grey silt/sand glacial deposit. This deposit was followed by a series of glacial deposits: a 1.0m thick deposit of grey-brown gravel; a 0.40m thick deposit of blue-grey clay/silt/sand; a 0.50m thick deposit of yellow-grey and light blue-grey silt/sand, extant as a series of "bands". The test pit was stopped at 3.10m below ground level due to the influx of the water table.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit. The deposits were noticeably similar to those in Test Pit 36.

Test Pit 035

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 2.90m (l x w x d)

Description

This test pit was located towards the eastern end of a boggy area, near a modern wire fence. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.22m. This was followed by 0.68m of peat, which contained fragments of wood and plant root. Below this was a light grey silt/clay, 0.50m thick. The remainder of the test pit contained a grey coarse sand/gravel. The test pit was stopped at 2.90m due to the influx of the water table.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit. The combination of peat and the water table influx, suggested that this area was subject to frequent waterlogging and probably remained largely undeveloped, except for pasture, over a long period.

Test Pit 036

Size: 1.90m x 0.60m x 3.10m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located towards the eastern end of the rocky ridge/boggy area, within an area of improved pasture. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.30m, followed by a 1.10m thick deposit of yellow-grey silt/sand (glacial); a 0.80m thick deposit of orange-brown gravel/sand (glacial); a 0.30m thick deposit of blue-grey sand/clay and a 0.60m thick deposit of wet gravel/sand. The test pit was stopped at 3.10m below ground level due to the influx of the water table.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 037

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 3.00m (l x w x d)

Description

This test pit was located near a fenced off drain near the northern edge of the boggy area. The boggy area appeared to be drying out in this area. The ground surface was uneven. The first metre within the test pit comprised a layer of dark amorphous peat. Within this deposit was a stone filled drain of post-medieval date (c6.65m AOD). It was extant at 0.18m below ground level and was 0.70m deep. It was only visible along the east-facing section of the test pit. The peat layer was followed by a 1.60m thick deposit of light grey silt/clay, identified as glacial in origin. This was followed by another glacial deposit: a grey coarse sand/gravel, 0.40m thick. The test pit was stopped at 3.00m below ground level.

Interpretation

The test pit contained a post-medieval field drain.

Test Pit 038

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 2.90m (l x w x d)

Description

This test pit was located halfway along the southside of a boggy area, immediately below a rocky ridge within improved pasture. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.20m, followed by a grey silt/sand, 0.65m thick (glacial). Two other glacial deposits followed this deposit: an orange-brown gravel/sand, 0.55m thick and a grey clay/sand (1.50m thick). The test pit was stopped at 2.90m below ground level. The bedrock was not identified within the test pit.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 039

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 1.30m (l x w x d)

Description

The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.50m and comprised mid-brown silt topsoil; a glacial silt deposit, 0.80m deep, followed this. Bedrock was identified at 1.30m below ground level.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit, except for several sherds of modern glazed pottery indicative of post-medieval farming activity.

Test Pit 040

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 2.90m (l x w x d)

Description

This test pit was located in within a large irregular pasture field towards the southern edge of a boggy area, below a rocky ridge. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.20m, followed by a 1.10m thick deposit of peat. Below the peat was a light-grey glacial clay/silt that contained possible fragments of tufa. The full depth of this glacial deposit was not ascertained due to the influx of the water table and the test pit was abandoned at 2.90m below ground level

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 041

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 2.40m (l x w x d)

Description

Interpretation

This test pit was not excavated.

Test Pit 042

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 2.40m (l x w x d)

Description

This test pit was located c.100m west of Test Pit 40, also along the southern edge of a low-lying boggy area. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.45m and contained degraded peat. Below this was a 0.80m thick deposit of dark grey silt/clay that was followed by a sand/gravel. The water table entered the test pit at c.2.0m and the pit was abandoned at 2.40m. The full depth of the sand/gravel was not determined.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit. The peat was less prevalent in this test pit than in Test Pit 40 and was extant only in the topsoil in a degraded form.

Test Pit 043

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 3.40m (l x w x d)

Description

Test Pit 43 was located to the west of Test Pit 42 in improved pasture below the rocky ridge. The test pit was located c.30.0m south of a boggy area on a slight north to south slope. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.30m, followed by a 0.20m thick deposit of degraded peat. Below this was a light-grey sand-silt, 0.30m thick, followed by a 0.70m thick orange-brown, gravel-rich silt/sand with "iron panning". The remaining 1.90m of the test pit contained a mid-grey silt/sand that overlay a light-grey compacted fine silt/sand. The test pit was stopped at 3.40m below ground level.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 044

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 2.00m (l x w x d)

Description

Interpretation

This test pit was not excavated.

Test Pit 045

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 3.15m (l x w x d)

Description

This test pit was located to the immediate southwest of a low rock outcrop, to the southwest of Test Pit 46, within an area of improved pasture. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.30m, followed by a mid orange brown silt/sand, 0.65m thick. Below this was a 1.05m thick coarse sand/gravel with inclusions of large angular stones. The remaining 1.15m of the test pit contained a yellow-grey silt/clay with moderate inclusions of sub-angular and sub-rounded stones, becoming more compacted towards the base of the deposit. The test pit was stopped at 3.15m below ground level.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 046 (Figures 2 and 5; Plate 01)

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 2.40m (l x w x d)

Description

This test pit was located to the northwest of Test Pit 43, 100m to the north of the rock outcrop, within improved pasture. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.30m, followed by a 0.25m thick light grey gravel-rich silt-sand. A 0.90m thick deposit of mid-brown sand/silt followed this. Below this was a 1.00m thick deposit of light grey gravel and degraded bedrock. Bedrock (schist metamorphic) was identified at 2.40m below ground level. A linear feature was visible at the northern end of the test pit in both the east and west facing sections. The feature was sealed by the topsoil and was cut into the light grey gravel-rich silt-sand (8.80m AOD). The feature was 1.10m wide in the west-facing section and 1.35m wide in the east-facing section, with a mean depth of 0.25m. The fill of the feature was a dark grey-brown silt/clay.

Interpretation

The ditch was interpreted as a remnant of post-medieval localised agricultural activity, possibly a boundary ditch or a ploughscar. The exact date was unclear due to the lack of datable artefacts. An examination of the available map evidence shows that the test pit was located within a relatively small enclosed field on the 1817 Penrhos Estate Map (Figure 8).

Test Pit 047

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 2.20m (l x w x d)

Description

This test pit was located to the north of Test Pit 45 and to the north of a small rock outcrop. The test pit was located across the transition point between improved pasture and a boggy area. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.25m and contained degraded peat. Below this was a 0.40m thick deposit of peat, followed by a 0.15m thick deposit of light grey sand/silt/clay. The remainder of the test pit comprised a mid grey silt/clay with frequent inclusions of sub-angular stone. The test pit was stopped at 2.20m due to the influx of the water table.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 048

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 2.30m (l x w x d)

Description

Interpretation

This test pit was not excavated.

Test Pit 049

Size: 2.86m x 0.60m x 2.10m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located between two rock outcrops, near a modern fence boundary and north of an enclosed waterlogged area. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.25m and was followed by a 0.07m thick deposit of leached topsoil. Below this was a 0.18m thick grey silt-clay with frequent inclusions of medium sized sub-angular stone and manganese staining. Below this was a 1.60m thick gravel-rich deposit. The test pit was stopped at 2.10m due to the influx of the water table.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 050

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 1.90m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located on a flat low-lying area west of a hillock and south of an east-west field boundary. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.30m and was followed by a 0.20m thick clay-rich silt. Below this was a stone-rich silt/clay that continued to the base of the test pit. The test pit was stopped at 1.90m due to the influx of the water table.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 051

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 4.00m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located at the apex of two field boundaries. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.28m and was followed by a 0.12m thick deposit of clay-rich silt. Cutting this deposit was a field drain with a V-shaped profile. The drain was filled with stone. It was post-medieval in date and agricultural in origin. The remainder of the test pit contained glacial deposits.

Interpretation

The test pit contained evidence of post-medieval farming activity.

Test Pit 052

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 1.50m (l x w x d)

Description

This test pit was located at the western end of the development area, towards the base of a north-south aligned slope, within an irregular shaped pasture field. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.25m and was followed by a 0.25m thick deposit of grey clay/silt. Below this was a 1.00m thick deposit of grey gravel. The test pit was stopped at 1.50m below ground level. The deposits below the topsoil were glacial or alluvial in origin.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 053

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 2.40m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located across a north to south slope, 5.0m east of a dilapidated north-south field boundary wall. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.25m and contained fragments of sub-angular stone thought to have come from the neighbouring field boundary wall. A series of glacial deposits followed the topsoil and were similar in appearance to those identified in Test Pit 55. The test pit was stopped at 2.40m below ground level due to the influx of the water table.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit

Test Pit 054 (Figures 2 and 5; Plate 02)

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 3.20m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located to the east of Test Pit 51. the topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.30m and was followed by a 0.30m deposit of light brown-orange clay/silt. Cutting this deposit was a field drain with a V-shaped profile (8.96m AOD). The drain was filled with stone. Below the light brown-orange clay/silt was a thick deposit of boulder clay. The test pit was stopped at 3.20m due to the influx of the water table

Interpretation

The test pit contained evidence of post-medieval farming activity. The field drain appeared to be on the same alignment as that identified in Test Pit 51.

Test Pit 055

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 3.20m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located to the north of an east-west aligned field boundary, within a flat area of improved pasture. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.25m, becoming deeper at the northern end of the test pit. Two glacial deposits followed the shallow topsoil: a 0.75m thick deposit of stone-rich grey clay-silt and a mottled orange-grey silt clay that continued to the bottom of the test pit, which was stopped at 3.20m below ground level.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit

Test Pit 056

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 3.70m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located c.10.0m south of an east-west aligned field boundary wall at the base of a north-south slope. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.25m and was followed by a light grey-brown silt/clay with frequent small sub-rounded stone inclusions. Below this was a stone-rich deposit with manganese staining. The remainder of the test pit comprised anaerobic silts; the bedrock was not identified.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 057

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 2.50m (l x w x d)

Description

This test pit was located c.50m south of Test Pit 54. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.30m and was followed by a 0.20m thick, grey-brown stone-rich. The remainder of the test pit comprised an orange-grey stone-rich deposit.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 058

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 2.60m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located c.15.0m west of Test Pit 59. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.25m and was followed by a 0.25m thick grey silt/clay with infrequent sub-rounded stones. Below this was 1.70m thick deposit of yellow-brown silt/clay with frequent sub-rounded stone inclusions. The remainder of the test pit comprised a gravel-rich deposit. The deposits below the topsoil were glacial or alluvial in origin.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 059

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 2.00m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located to the south of a north-south aligned slope in a flattened area parallel to a modern fence line. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.35m, becoming deeper on the west side of the test pit. Below this was a stone-rich silt/clay, 0.40m thick, which was followed by a 0.60m thick stone-rich deposit. This deposit continued to the base of the test pit which was stopped at 2.00m below ground level due to the influx of the water table.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 060

Size: 3.10m x 0.60m x 1.90m (l x w x d)

Description

The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.20m, followed by a light-grey sand/silt/clay, 0.25m deep, with occasional patches of "iron-panning". The remaining 1.45m of the test pit contained a coarse, grey gravel-rich sand. The test-pit was abandoned at 1.90m due to the influx of water.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit. The appearance of “iron-panning” in the deposit below the topsoil suggested that the local area was subject to frequent waterlogging. This was confirmed by the appearance of the water table at 1.90m below ground level.

Test Pit 61

Size: 3.00m x 0.6m x 3.80m (l x w x d)

Description:

The test pit was located at the extreme south end of the field containing the Ty Mawr standing stone (PRN 2501) adjacent to a wire fence. The ground here sloped down gently from north to south and consisted of improved pasture. The topsoil was 0.30m deep and comprised a friable and dry mid greyish brown silty sandy clay. This sealed a 0.20m thick, friable mid reddish brown sandy silty clay, which faded out towards the north end of the test pit. Beneath this was 1.1m of orange/brown medium sand and sub rounded small stones, becoming mid brown coarse sand. A 0.25m mineralization horizon was evident at the base of this deposit. Below this was 2.0m of pale yellowish grey silty medium sand and frequent small sub angular/sub rounded stones, occasional large to very large sub angular boulders. This sealed a yellowish brown coarse sand and grit with medium sub angular stones. Excavation was halted at 3.8m as the machine could not dig deeper.

Interpretation:

The thin reddish brown deposit below the current topsoil could be ancient plough soil or hill wash.

Test Pit 062 (Figures 2 and 6; Plate 03)

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 3.50m (l x w x d)

Description

This test pit was located c.15.0m to the west of Lôn Trefigniath within a large, irregular-shaped pasture field. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.40m. Below the topsoil were two distinct features cutting an orange-brown silt: at the eastern end of the test pit was a 0.70m wide stone-filled drain; at the western end was a 0.70m wide north-south orientated linear feature (9.79m AOD). Both features cut into a glacial silt and the remainder of the test pit comprised a series of such layers until the test pit was stopped at 3.50m.

Interpretation

The two features within the test pit were interpreted as post-medieval in date and were thought to be associated with localised farming activity. The linear feature was interpreted as a shallow ditch. The fill of the ditch was a friable mid-brown deposit akin to the topsoil, which suggested that the feature did not remain exposed for a long period as there was no evidence of erosion or a sequence of layers associated with backfilling or an external bank. Its exact function was unclear. Although the test pit was within a large irregular shaped field, an analysis of the 1817 Estate Map and the various editions of the 25” Ordnance Survey Maps of the area (Figures 8 to 10), showed that it was formerly part of a much smaller system of enclosed fields that belonged to Bonc Dêg Farm. It is most likely that the two features were associated with this farming activity.

Test Pit 063

Dimensions: 3.00m x 0.60m x 0.60m (l x w x d)

Description:

The test pit was located to the northeast of Lôn Trefigniath on the downslope of a prominent knoll with occasional bedrock outcroppings. The area was generally improved pasture though a boggy area was located to the southeast. The topsoil was 0.50m deep and comprised dry friable dark greyish brown sandy silty clay with rare coal fragments. This sealed 0.20m of orange silt/sand with moderate small sub angular stones. This layer thinned out and faded towards the southeast (downslope). Beneath this was bedrock, degraded then solid.

Interpretation:

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 064 (Figures 2 and 4; Plate 04)

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 3.20m (l x w x d)

Description:

The test pit was located to the north of a boggy area, c.40m to east of Test Pit 63, and c.40m to the west of the A55. The ground here was level just before a gentle slope down into the bog and consisted of improved pasture. The topsoil was 0.40m deep, friable and dry and comprised a dark greyish brown sandy silty clay. This sealed 0.30m of pale green-grey silt/sand, containing frequent small angular stones. A linear cut feature was identified truncating this deposit running through the centre of the

northwest end of the trench and out through the middle of the northeast facing side (6.53m AOD). The feature had steep sides and a concave bottom and measured 0.30m wide and 0.35m tall (sealed by a further 0.35m of topsoil). It was filled by frequent 0.05-0.15m wide sub-angular stone inclusions (Plate 04). Beneath the deposit and cut by the linear was 0.60m of mid brown sand/clay containing frequent angular grit and moderate small stones. Below this was a blue-grey silt/sand with moderate small to medium sub angular stones, becoming more gravely with large sub angular boulders towards the bottom. Excavation was halted at 3.20m due to collapse of the sides of the test pit.

Interpretation:

The linear feature was a stone filled field drain.

Test Pit 065

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 1.90m (l x w x d)

Description:

The test pit was located c.40m to the northwest of a boggy area between Lôn Trefigniath and the A55. The ground here was undulating and dropped away to the northwest, southeast and northeast, a prominent knoll was located to the southeast. The land here consisted of improved pasture. The topsoil was 0.30m deep and comprised a dark grey-brown sand/ silt/clay. This sealed 0.20m of dark brown sand/silt/clay. Beneath this was 0.70m of pale green-grey medium sand with frequent small sub angular stones. There was evidence of mineralization (manganese) throughout. Excavation was halted at 1.9m below the present ground surface as the machine was unable to dig through the compacted boulders.

Interpretation:

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 066

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 3.00m (l x w x d)

Description:

The test pit was located on the north side of a short ridge running east to west, with Lôn Trefigniath located c.40m to the west. The ground sloped from the south to the north and consisted of improved pasture. The topsoil was 0.40m deep and comprised a dry and friable dark greyish brown sand/silt/clay. This sealed a 0.30-0.45m thick deposit of dark brown sand/clay/silt with moderate small to medium sub-angular stones. This deposit was thicker downslope to the northwest. Beneath this was 0.35-0.50m of orange/brown medium silt/sand with frequent angular grit and frequent small sub angular/sub rounded stones. Beneath this was a pale green-grey fine sand, containing medium sub angular stones. Excavation was halted when large compacted boulders were struck at 3.00m below the ground surface.

Interpretation:

The deposit below the topsoil may be some sort of hillwash effect or ploughsoil.

Test Pit 067 (Figures 2 and 4; Plate 05)

Size: 6.30m x 0.60m x 3.10m (l x w x d)

Description:

The test pit was located at the base of a ridge below Test Pit 66 with Lôn Trefigniath to the southwest. The ground surface was level and consisted of improved pasture. The topsoil was 0.30m deep and comprised a dark grey-brown sand-silt-clay. The deposits in the trench below this seemed to be different from one side of the section to the other. This division was marked very approximately by a horizon of large angular stones struck immediately below the topsoil 2.3m from the southeast end of the test pit (8.59m AOD). These stones seemed to be accompanied by several smaller angular stones forming an apparent linear alignment running southwest to northeast across the trench. The test pit was extended to the so as not to disturb the feature. To the northwest end of the test pit, the topsoil sealed a 0.70m thick, very mixed, topsoil/sub soil deposit, with occasional large sub-angular stones and occasional larger stones. Beneath this was a 0.30m thick deposit of pale green-grey silt/sand with sub-angular stone inclusions. Below this was a 0.70m thick deposit of medium brown gravel/clay. This overlay a loose rounded gravel and coarse sand deposit. Excavation was halted at 3.1m below the present ground surface due to collapse of the trench sides. On the southeast side of the test pit, immediately below the topsoil and butting the stones at the northwest end was a deposit 0.40m thick and 0.65m wide, comprising a pale yellow sand/silt/clay with the appearance of a leached soil. To the southeast of this, the stones were butted by a 0.30m thick deposit of mid brown sand/silt/clay, with inclusions of moderate to frequent large sub-angular stones with numerous voids. This sealed a mid grey silt/sand/clay with infrequent inclusions of charcoal. This deposit appeared to be a buried soil horizon, possibly waterlogged and gleyed.

Interpretation:

The stones may represent an old field boundary (Plate 05). An examination of the available map evidence reveals that the test pit was located either across or close to a field boundary extant on the 1889 25" Ordnance Survey Map associated with Bonc Dêg Farm (Figure 9).

Test Pit 068

Size: 1.20m x 0.60m x 0.60m (l x w x d)

Description

The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.25m and comprised a grey-brown silty topsoil; this was followed by orange-brown glacial silt, 0.35m deep. Bedrock was identified at 0.60m.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 069 (Figures 2 and 4; Plate 06)

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 0.65m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located c. 20m east of Test Pit 070. The ground here sloped from west to east and consisted of improved pasture. The topsoil was 0.20m deep and comprised a dark grey-brown sand/silt/clay. This sealed a 0.35m thick deposit of mid brown sand/silt/clay. Beneath this was a scatter of irregular shaped patches of yellow/orange sand-rich mottled clay, measuring 0.3-0.4m in diameter and 0.01-0.02m thick. Some of these patches had irregular lenses of concentrated charcoal on their surfaces. The clay patches overlay a 0.10m thick layer of dark grey sand/clay/silt, containing occasional charcoal flecks. This in turn sealed a layer of stones ranging in size from 0.03-0.2m. These were generally lying flat and were fairly closely laid forming a somewhat irregular stone surface. The excavations were halted at a depth of 0.65m below the present ground surface due to the presence of potentially significant archaeology.

Interpretation

The base of the sequence seems to represent some sort of laid stone surface overlain by a possible occupation horizon (Plate 06). The layer beneath the topsoil may represent modern makeup. Test Pit 069 was located within the same area as Trench 15 from the 2004 Evaluation Phase (GAT Report Nos. 554 and 561), approximately crossing the northern end of that trench and continuing to the west (see Figures 1 and 4). Trench 15 was interpreted at the time as containing little or no archaeology; the only suggestive activity was a loose collection of stones at the northwestern end of the trench, which were interpreted as relics of post-medieval farming. It now appears, from the activity within Test Pit 069, that there was evidence for prehistoric/Romano-British activity in or very close to Trench 15 and the stones identified within that trench were similar to those visible below the occupation layer in Test Pit 069. There was no occupation layer within Trench 15 and it is most likely that this layer was to the immediate west of the trench, outside its confines. The "modern make-up" identified below the topsoil in Test Pit 069 was most likely the backfill from Trench 015. The occupation layer in Test Pit 069 was similar in appearance to that in Trench 11 and 14 from the 2004 Evaluation Phase (contexts 1103 to 1106; GAT Report Nos. 554 and 561). The deposits in Trench 11 were extant at 8.67m AOD and in Trench 14, 9.59m AOD; the occupation layer in Test Pit 069 was extant at 8.45m AOD (see Figure 5 for the location of Test Pit 069 and Trenches 11 and 14).

Test Pit 070

Size: 3.00m x 0.6m x 3.90m (l x w x d)

Description:

The test pit was located immediately to the east of Lôn Trefigniath, c.20m to the northwest of Test Pit 067. The ground here was level and consisted of improved pasture. The topsoil was 0.40m deep and comprised a dark grey-brown sand/silt/clay. This sealed 1.0m of pale yellow-grey silt/sand with frequent small sub angular stones. Beneath this was a 1.4m thick deposit of pale green silt/sand with frequent small angular stones. Below was 0.20m of pale yellow-brown silt/sand and gravel. This sealed a light grey silt/sand with frequent small sub angular stones. The excavation was halted at a depth of 3.9m below ground level.

Interpretation:

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 071

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 0.3m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located adjacent to the A55, c.30m to north of Test Pit 069. The ground here sloped northwest to southeast and consisted of improved pasture. The topsoil was 0.30m deep and comprised friable grey-brown sand/clay. This sealed a mid yellow-brown sand/silt/clay, with frequent small sub-angular stones, small patches of yellow brown clay 0.10m in diameter and occasional large angular stones to 0.15m in width. This deposit also contained rubber gloves, metal tubing, and plastic. Excavation was halted on the surface of this deposit at a depth of 0.30m below the present ground surface due to the proximity of a gas pipe.

Interpretation

The ground below the topsoil appeared to be redeposited, possibly a backfilled trench, or makeup.

Test Pit 072

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 3.7m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located at the northwestern end of a field adjacent to the west side of Lôn Trefigniath. The ground was level and consisted of improved pasture. The topsoil was 0.60m deep and sealed a 0.15m thick deposit of mid orange/brown silt/sand with frequent sub angular stones. This overlay a pale green silt/sand, with frequent small angular stones and occasional large to very large sub angular boulders becoming compacted with depth. The excavation was halted at 3.7m.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 073

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 4.0m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located towards the northwestern end of a field adjacent to the west side of Lôn Trefigniath. A drystone wall demarcated the field from Lôn Trefigniath. The ground here was level and consisted of improved pasture. The topsoil was 0.30m deep and sealed a 1.10m thick deposit of orange/brown coarse sand with frequent sub angular /sub rounded small stones. This overlay a 0.20m thick deposit of brown sand and beneath this was a pale greenish grey silty fine sand with frequent small sub angular stones. The excavation was halted at 4.0m below ground level.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 074

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 0.3m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located c.40m northwest of Test Pit 071, adjacent to the A55. The ground consisted of improved pasture. The topsoil was 0.30m deep and sealed a bright mid orange sand/silt from which was recovered a struck flint flake. Excavation was halted at the surface of this deposit due to the proximity of a gas main.

Interpretation

No archaeological features were identified however the recovery of a struck flint flake indicates prehistoric activity in the immediate vicinity.

Test Pit 075

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 3.00m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located immediately beside Lôn Trefigniath at the extreme northern end of the field. The ground consisted of improved pasture. The topsoil was 0.30m deep and sealed a 0.20m thick deposit of bright orange sand/silt. This overlay a 0.70m thick deposit of light yellow-grey sand with frequent angular coarse grits, frequent sub angular and sub rounded small stones. Water entered the trench at this stratum. Beneath this was a 1.60m thick pale yellow-grey silt/ sand with moderate angular coarse grits and moderate small stones. The excavation was halted at 3.00m below the present ground surface due to the volume of water entering the trench.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 076

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 2.00m (l x w x d)

Description

Interpretation

This test pit was not excavated.

Test Pit 077

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 3.00m (l x w x d)

Description

Interpretation

This test pit was not excavated.

Test Pit 078

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 2.7m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located 100m south of the Ty Mawr standing stone (PRN 2501). The ground was improved pasture. The topsoil was 0.25m thick and was above a 0.35m thick of pale green-grey silt/sand and broken stone. This sealed 1.20m of grey silt/clay. Below this was 0.60m of light brown sub rounded/sub angular gravel/sand. Water entered the test pit at this strata and the test pit began to collapse so that excavation was halted at 2.7m below the present ground surface.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 079

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 2.00m (l x w x d)

Description

Interpretation

This test pit was not excavated.

Test Pit 81

Dimensions: 3.00m x 0.6m x 2.70m (l x w x d)

Description:

The test pit was located c.70m southeast of the Ty Mawr standing stone (PRN 2501). The ground here was level and consisted of improved pasture. The topsoil was 0.25m deep and sealed a 0.95m thick deposit of silt/clay. Beneath this was a 0.60m thick deposit of mid grey-brown sand/clay with moderate small sub angular stones. This sealed water saturated orange gravel. Water entered the trench at this stratum. Excavation was halted due to collapse of the trench sides.

Interpretation:

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 82

Dimensions: 3.00m x 0.6m x 2.50m (l x w x d)

Description:

The test pit was located c.70m east of the Ty Mawr standing stone (PRN 2501) adjacent to Lôn Trefigniath, separated by a wire fence and a dry stone wall. The topsoil was 0.45m deep. The lower 0.10m appeared a light yellowish brown. At the southeast end of the test pit, a potential feature was identified. The feature measured 1.1m across and 0.6m deep with a regular concave profile. The fill was mid brown with occasional sub angular medium stones. Both top soil layers seemed to slump down into it. The anomaly was not visible in the opposing section though the topsoil was deeper here. Beneath this was a 0.75m thick deposit of pale green-grey silt/clay/sand. This sealed a light yellow-brown coarse sand with frequent small stones. Water entered the trench at this stratum. Excavation was halted at 2.50m below ground level due to the collapse of the sides of the test pit.

Interpretation:

The anomaly identified in the SW facing section may have been a tree bole hole or possibly just a natural hollow.

Test pit 83

Dimensions: 3.00m x 0.6m x 3.90m (l x w x d)

Description:

The test pit was located c.40m east of the Ty Mawr standing stone (PRN 2501). The topsoil was 0.45m deep and sealed a 1.75m thick deposit of orange/brown sand. Below this was a sand-silt deposit. Excavation was halted at 3.9m.

Interpretation:

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 84

Dimensions: 3.00m x 0.6m x 3.50m (l x w x d)

Description:

The test pit was located c.30m southeast of the Ty Mawr standing stone (PRN 2501). The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.30m. This sealed a 2.10m thick deposit of orange brown sand. Below this was a light yellow-grey sand/silt. Excavation was halted at 3.50m below ground level.

Interpretation:

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit

Test Pit 85

Dimensions: 3.00m x 0.6m x 3.50m (l x w x d)

Description:

The test pit was located c.100m south of the Ty Mawr standing stone (PRN 2501). The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.25m and sealed a 0.20m thick deposit of friable sand/clay. Beneath this was a 0.65m thick deposit of clay with inclusions of small to medium sized sub angular stones. Excavation was halted at 3.50m below ground level due to the collapse of the sides of the test pit.

Interpretation:

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 086

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 3.30m (l x w x d)

Description

This test pit was located west of a hillock and south of one of the 2004 evaluation areas. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.40m and was followed by a 0.15m thick deposit of leached clay/silt. Below this was a 0.25m thick deposit of loose, stone-rich clay/silt, which appeared to be a buried soil. A 0.30m thick deposit of clay/silt followed this, with the remainder of the test pit comprising a sand/gravel deposit. The test pit was bottomed at 3.30m below ground level. The bedrock was not identified.

Interpretation

The buried soil appeared to be the original topsoil layer. It was unclear from the confines of the test pit how extensive was this deposit.

Test Pit 87

Dimensions: 3.00m x 0.6m x 3.50m (l x w x d)

Description:

The test pit was located c.40m south of the Ty Mawr standing stone (PRN 2501). The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.30m and sealed a 0.80m thick deposit of silt/sand. Beneath this was a sand/silt, which continued to the base of the test pit. The bedrock was not identified.

Interpretation:

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 088

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 2.50m (l x w x d)

Description

The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.25m and was followed by a 0.25m orange-brown deposit. Below this was a 0.30m thick gravel, which was followed by a 0.30m thick clay-rich deposit. Below this was a 0.20m thick gravel-rich deposit. The remainder of the test pit comprised a 1.20m thick clay/gravel. The test pit was stopped at 2.50m.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 89

Dimensions: 3.00m x 0.6m x 2.50m (l x w x d)

Description:

The test pit was located c.60m northwest of the Ty Mawr standing stone (PRN 25012501), with a dry stone wall to the northwest and southeast. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.30m below ground level and sealed a 0.25m thick deposit of sand-/silt. Beneath this was a 0.75m thick deposit of coarse

sand with sub angular small stones. This sealed a 0.65m thick deposit of grey sand and small angular stones. Water entered the trench at this stratum. Beneath this was a light grey silty fine sand with moderate small angular stones. Excavation was halted at 2.50m below the present ground surface due to the influx of the water table.

Interpretation:

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 090

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 1.80m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located towards the base of an east-west slope within the same field as the Ty Mawr standing stone (PRN 2501; located c.150m to the northeast). The topsoil varied in depth in accordance with the angle of the slope, with the deepest point at 0.40m below ground level. Below the topsoil was a 1.40m thick deposit of orange-brown drift geology, followed by a thin grey silt/clay immediately above the bedrock.

Interpretation

Despite being within an area of known prehistoric archaeology (including the standing stone (PRN 2501) to the northeast), there was no evidence for archaeological activity within the confines of the test pit.

Test Pit 091

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 2.20m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located near the crest of a northeast to southwest-aligned slope and c.22.0m east of a stone-built north to south field boundary wall. The test pit was in an area of improved pasture. The topsoil had an average depth of 0.30m and was followed by a 0.30m thick deposit of orange-brown silt, identified as drift geology. Below this was a 0.25m thick deposit of grey-brown sand, which was followed by a 1.35m thick deposit of silver-grey silt/clay. The bedrock was identified at 2.20m below ground level.

Interpretation

The test pit comprised a thin deposit of topsoil followed by a series of glacial deposits. There was no evidence of archaeological activity within the confines of the test pit.

Test Pit 092

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 0.90m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located c.1.0m west of a north-south aligned field boundary, within an irregular enclosed pasture field. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.35m, followed by a 0.55m thick deposit of orange-brown drift geology. The bedrock was identified at 0.90m below ground level.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 093

Size: 3.00 x 0.60m x 2.60m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located to the northeast of Test Pit 094, on a gentle north to south slope. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.40m, followed by a thin yellow-orange-brown clay/silt, 0.10m thick, identified as subsoil. This was followed by a series of glacial deposits, beginning with a 0.40m thick deposit of drift material above a 1.70m thick deposit of yellow-grey silt/clay. The bedrock was identified at 2.60m below ground level.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 094

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 3.80m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located to the southwest of Test Pit 093, towards the centre of an enclosed pasture field with a slight north to south slope. There were no visible topographical features. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.60m, followed by a 0.70m thick deposit of drift geology. Below this was a 0.40m thick deposit of sand/gravel that turned into "stiff", friable grey sand, with occasional inclusions of sub-

rounded stone and quartz. The bedrock (schist metamorphic) was identified at 3.80m below ground level.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 095

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 0.75m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located to the northeast of Test Pit 096 within a large enclosed field to the east of Merddyn Poeth Farm, along the side of a southeast to northwest slope. The bedrock was visible protruding through the ground surface at various points along the slope. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.15m, followed by a 0.60m thick layer of orange-brown drift geology. Below this deposit was the bedrock, a metamorphic schist, extant at 0.75m below ground level.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit. The bedrock was very shallow at this point.

Test Pit 096

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 1.00m (l x w x d)

Description

This test pit was located c.9.00m to the west of a rocky outcrop on flat improved pasture. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.50m and was followed by an orange-brown drift deposit of equal depth.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 097

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 2.70m (l x w x d)

Description

This test pit was located c.35m to the southwest of Test Pit 103 on flat, improved pasture. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.30m, followed by a deposit of orange-brown drift geology. The test pit was bottomed at 2.70m.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 098

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 4.50m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located c.20.0m south of a modern gate and c.30.0m west of a rock outcrop, within flat pasture. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.40m. The remainder of the test pit contained a series of sand/clay/silt layers of varying thickness that continued to a depth of 4.50m. The bedrock was not identified.

Interpretation

The surrounding area contained remnants of nineteenth/twentieth century agricultural activity, including a series of redundant gateposts that were built from reused brick and stone. The gate fittings had been removed and the gateposts stood in isolation, suggesting they were originally attached to a series of field boundary walls that have since been removed. An inspection of the available map evidence proves that the field in which the gateposts stand was formerly divided into smaller enclosures, which belonged to Tyddyn Pïoden Farm (literally meaning “Magpie Farm”). A northeast to southwest-aligned field boundary can be seen on the First Edition 25” Ordnance Survey Map (Figure 9), running from the location of the gateposts. This field boundary is no longer visible on the 1924 edition of the map, suggesting it was demolished between 1900 and 1924 (Figure 9). The 1817 Penrhos Estate Map of the area shows that Tyddyn Pïoden Farm had yet to be built, but that the boundary wall was in existence (Figure 8). Overall, the composition of the test pit revealed that the area comprised shallow topsoil, indicative of the use of area for pasture, atop what was formerly a possible river terrace, suggested by the extensive deposits of sand and gravel.

Test Pit 099

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 3.20m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located within a large enclosed pasture field, c.10.0m north of an east-west field boundary wall and c.35.0m southwest of a well. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.40m and was

followed by a 0.30m thick deposit of orange-brown silt. Below this was a 0.35m thick deposit of grey-brown silt. The remainder of the test pit comprised a grey sand/clay. The test pit was abandoned at 3.20m due to the influx of the water table.

Interpretation

The test pit comprised a series of glacial or alluvial deposits that was common within the test pits within this area (including Test Pit 119) indicating the presence of a former river terrace. There was no archaeological activity identified within the test pit.

Test Pit 100

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 2.80m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located c.35m to the northeast of Test Pit 94 near a gentle north-south slope. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.30m and was followed by a mottled yellow-brown gley deposit, 0.20m thick. Below this was a gravel-rich sand/clay/silt, followed by a series of gravel-rich deposits. The test pit was abandoned at 2.80m below ground level due to the influx of the water table.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit. The deposits below the topsoil were indicative of waterborne activity.

Test Pit 101

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 2.80m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located c.20m to the east of Test Pit 117 and c.35m to the south of a field boundary. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.35m and was followed by a 0.95m thick yellow-brown mottled clay-silt. Below this was a 0.30m thick mid-brown gravel-rich silt/clay, which was followed by a 0.20m thick deposit of light-brown silt clay. The remainder of the test pit comprised a gravel-rich deposit. The test pit was stopped at 2.80m below ground level. The bedrock was not identified and the test pit was stopped due to the influx of the water table.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit. The deposits below the topsoil were glacial or alluvial in origin.

Plate Load Test Pit 102

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 2.00m (l x w x d)

Description

This test pit was opened for a “plate load” test, which involved removing the topsoil and then subjecting the underlying deposit to a weight integrity test. This was performed in several test pits along the proposed route of a road associated with the development.

The topsoil was removed but no archaeological activity was identified.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 102

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 2.60m (l x w x d)

Description

The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.30m and was followed by a 0.25m thick grey-brown sand/gravel. Below this was a brown sand/gravel, with inclusions of sub-rounded stone, followed by a 0.30m thick yellow-brown clay-rich gravel. Below this was a 0.35m thick brown clay-rich gravel, followed by a 0.80m thick deposit of grey silt/sand. Below this was a 0.30m thick stone-rich grey silt/sand. The bedrock was identified at 2.60m below ground level (metamorphic schist).

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 103

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 1.10m (l x w x d)

Description

This test pit was located at the base of a rocky outcrop, along the east-west aligned slope. The topsoil had an average depth of 0.25m and was followed by a 0.30m thick deposit of orange-brown drift geology. Below this deposit was a 0.45m thick deposit of brown-orange sand/gravel. The bedrock was identified at 1.10m below ground level.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 104

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 1.40m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located c.35m to the southwest of Test Pit 97, towards the base of a northwest to southeast-aligned slope, within an enclosed pasture field. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.25m, followed by 0.20m of orange-brown drift geology. Below this was a similar deposit with an increased frequency of sub-angular stone that continued to the base of the test pit, where bedrock was identified at 1.40m below ground level.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 105

Size: 2.90m x 0.60m x 2.10m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located 40m west of the Ty Mawr standing stone (PRN 2501). The ground here was level and comprised improved pasture. There was an old ruinous field boundary to the west comprising drystone wall and fence posts. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.30m and sealed a 1.5m thick deposit of an orange brown silt/sand. Beneath this was a 0.30m thick deposit of pale yellowish grey silty fine sand with frequent angular small stones. Bedrock was struck at 2.1m.

Interpretation

No archaeological features were revealed, however, a small retouched flint flake scraper was recovered from the topsoil.

Test Pit 106

Dimensions: 3.00m x 0.60m x 3.60m (l x w x d)

Description:

The test pit was located 40m west of the Ty Mawr standing stone (PRN 2501). The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.30m and sealed 1.2m of orange/brown medium sand with sub angular/sub rounded gravel. Beneath this was 0.5m of very wet rounded gravel with some coarse sand. Water entered the test pit at this stratum. Below this was a light grey moderately plastic silty fine sand with moderate small angular stones and occasional large sub angular/sub rounded stones. Excavation was stopped at 3.60m below present ground level

Interpretation:

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 107

Dimensions: 3.00m x 0.6m x 3.00m (l x w x d)

Description:

The test pit was located c.60m to the northwest of the Ty Mawr standing stone (PRN 2501), c.20m northeast of Test Pit 089. A dry stone wall was located to the northwest. The ground was level and consisted of improved pasture. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.30m and sealed a 0.9m thick deposit of silt/sand/clay. Beneath this was a 0.30m thick deposit of mid grey coarse sand in clay with frequent sub angular stones. Below this was a 0.10m thick band of sand. Water entered the trench at this stratum. This sealed a light yellowish grey silty fine sand with moderate small sub angular stones and medium to large sub angular boulders. Excavation was halted at 3.00m below ground level.

Interpretation:

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 108

Dimensions: 3.00m x 0.60m x 4.00m (l x w x d)

Description:

The test pit was located in the southern corner of the field to northwest of the Ty Mawr standing stone (PRN 2501), c.15.0m to the northwest of a dry stone wall. The ground was level and consisted of improved pasture. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.30m and sealed a 0.10m thick deposit of sand/silt/clay. Below this was a 1.05m thick deposit of coarse sand and sub rounded gravel. Water entered the trench at this stratum. Beneath this deposit was a green-grey silt/sand that continued to the base of the test pit.

Interpretation:

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 109

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 3.30m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located c.30m to the north of the Ty Mawr standing stone (PRN 2501). The ground here was level and consisted of improved pasture. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.40m. At the northern end of the west-facing section the topsoil was 0.55m deep with a slightly humic looking 0.10m band at the base. This sealed a 0.60m thick deposit of sand/clay, which overlaid a 0.50m thick deposit of light grey sand/clay. Beneath this was a 0.70m thick deposit of sand with frequent small angular and sub angular stones. Water entered the trench at this stratum. Below was a fine sand with moderate small angular stones. This deposit continued to the base of the test pit, which was stopped at 3.30m below ground level.

Interpretation

The deeper west-facing section of the topsoil may represent a tree or natural hollow.

Test Pit 110

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 3.50m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located 50m to the northeast of the Ty Mawr standing stone (PRN 2501). The ground here was level and comprised improved pasture. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.30m and sealed a deposit of sand. Beneath this was a 0.10m thick deposit of bright orange sandy clay, very wet and with frequent angular grit and small angular/ sub angular stones. This overlay a 0.40m thick deposit of very wet grey coarse sand and sub angular/sub rounded gravel. Water entered the test pit at this stratum. Below this deposit was a 1.30m thick deposit of a mid to light grey sand/silt which continued to the base of the test pit at 3.50m below ground level.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 111

Dimensions: 3.00m x 0.60m x 3.40m (l x w x d)

Description:

The test pit was located c.70m north of the Ty Mawr standing stone (PRN 2501) adjacent to a dry stone wall located to the northwest. The ground here was level and consisted of improved pasture. The topsoil was extant to depth of 0.35m and sealed a 0.40m thick deposit of sand. Beneath this was a 0.55m thick deposit of coarse sand and gravel with occasional sub angular medium to large stones. Below this was a light yellowish grey silty fine sand with frequent small sub angular stones becoming mid grey with large to very sub angular large boulders with depth. This deposit continued to the base of the test pit, which was stopped at 3.40m.

Interpretation:

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 112

Dimensions: 3.00m x 0.60m x 3.70m (l x w x d)

Description:

The test pit was located c.70m to the northwest of the Ty Mawr standing stone (PRN 2501). The ground here was level and consisted of improved pasture. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.30m and sealed a 0.95m thick deposit of sand/clay. Beneath this deposit was a light grey silt/sand, which continued to the base of the test pit at 3.70m below ground level.

Interpretation:

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 113

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 3.80m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located c.20.0m to the northeast of Test Pit 114, within the same field, along a subtle east-west slope. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.40m and was followed by a 0.50m thick yellow-grey gravel/silt. The remainder of the test pit comprised a grey clay-rich silt. The test pit was stopped at 3.80m. The bedrock was not identified.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 114

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 3.80m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located c.45.0m to the east of Test Pit 121, within a large irregular shaped pasture field, on a very subtle east-west slope. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.40m and was followed by a 0.30m thick deposit of mottled yellow-grey clay/silt. Below this was a 1.00m thick deposit of grey-brown gravel. The remainder of the test pit comprised grey silt/clay. The bedrock was not identified.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 115

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 4.00m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located at the northern end of the development area, c.110m south of Lôn Trefigniath. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.30m and was followed by a 0.60m thick deposit of orange-brown silt. Below this was a 1.20m thick deposit of loose gravel. The remainder of the test pit comprised grey clay. The test pit was stopped at 4.00m below ground level. The bedrock was not identified.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 116

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 3.50m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located along a slight north-south slope, c.8.0m north of a gate entrance. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.40m and was followed by a 0.45m thick deposit of orange-brown silt. Below this was a stone-rich grey silt/clay. The remainder of the test pit comprised grey, boulder-rich clay. The test pit was stopped at 3.50m below ground level. The bedrock was not identified.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 117

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 4.00m (l x w x d)

Description

This test pit was located at the western end of a large enclosed pasture field. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.40m, followed by a 0.20m thick light orange brown clay/silt. Below this was a 3.00m thick deposit of mid-brown sand/gravel. The remainder of the test pit comprised a grey silt/clay with inclusions of sub-rounded stones. The test pit was stopped at 4.00m. The bedrock was not identified.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 118

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 1.00m (l x w x d)

Description

This test pit was located to the north of the Tyddyn Pïoden at the western end of the development area. It was situated across the crest and side of a low-lying slope formed by an extensive rock outcrop that sloped to the north. The topsoil contained a large amount of nineteenth/twentieth century “rubbish”, including ceramic building material, pottery, glass bottles and a gas pipe fitting. It appeared that the rubbish was dumped from Tyddyn Pïoden Farm. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.30m at the southern end of the test pit, becoming deeper towards the middle of the test pit (up to 1.00m thick) and shallower towards the northern end, at 0.40m below ground level. The bedrock was directly below the topsoil at the southern end of the test pit. Towards the centre and northern end of the test pit there were two deposits between the topsoil and the bedrock: a 0.50m thick orange-brown silt above a 0.10m thick yellow-brown sand/silt.

Interpretation

The test pit contained evidence for post-medieval rubbish dumping/landscaping. The bedrock was very shallow at this point and there was no archaeological activity visible in the deposits below the topsoil.

Tyddyn Proden Farm was built during the mid to late nineteenth century and is the most likely source for the rubbish material.

Test Pit 119

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 4.00m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located to the immediate east of a north-south aligned boundary wall, at the base of a very slight east to west slope, within a large field incorporating a well (PRN 13927). The topsoil was thin, extant to a depth of 0.15m atop a yellow grey glacial subsoil, 0.35m thick. The remaining 3.50m of the test pit comprised a grey mottled clay-rich silt, possibly gley, which became more gravelly as the test pit deepened. The test pit was abandoned at 4.00m as this was the maximum excavation depth of the machine.

Interpretation

The test pit comprised a series of glacial or alluvial deposits that was common within the test pits within this area (including Test Pit 99) indicating the presence of a former river terrace. There was no archaeological activity identified within the test pit.

Test Pit 120

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 0.60m (l x w x d)

Description

This test pit was opened for a “plate load” test, which involved removing the topsoil and then subjecting the underlying deposit to a weight integrity test. This was performed in several test pits along the proposed route of a road associated with the development. The test pit was located to the west of Lôn Trefigniath. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.30m and was followed by an orange-brown drift deposit.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit. The deposit below the topsoil was glacial in origin. The test pit was not taken any deeper whilst under archaeological supervision.

Test Pit 121

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 3.50m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located c.35m to the east of Test Pit 122 within flat pasture. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.30m and was followed by a 0.50m thick deposit of orange-brown stone-rich silt. Below this was a 0.60m thick deposit of yellow-grey silt/clay. The remainder of the test pit comprised a blue-grey silt/clay, which contained three large sub-rounded stones.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 122

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 3.80m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located to the side of a slight east to west slope within a large irregular shaped pasture field. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.30m and was followed by a stone-rich orange-brown sand/silt. The stones were small, sub-rounded and frequent. A 2.00m thick deposit of silver-grey silt-clay followed this. The test pit was stopped at 3.80m below ground level due to the influx of the water table.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 123

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 4.10m (l x w x d)

Description

This test pit was located c.35.0m to the north of Test Pit 125. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.35m and was followed by a red-brown subsoil, 0.15m thick. The remainder of the test pit comprised a grey-brown sand/clay/silt that continued, with subtle variations, towards the base of the pit. The test pit was bottomed at 4.10m below ground level.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 124

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 4.00m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located c.50.0m northwest of Test Pit 123 within the same field. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.40m below ground level. Below this was an orange-brown silt with small inclusions of sub-rounded stone, 0.60m thick. A 1.40m thick deposit of brown gravel-rich sand/silt followed this deposit. The remainder of the test pit comprised a beige coloured sand with frequent small pebble inclusions. The test pit was bottomed at 4.00m below ground level. The bedrock was not identified.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 125

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 3.70m (l x w x d)

Description

This test pit was located towards the southern end of a large pasture field, c.200m to the south of Lôn Trefigniath, with an east-west aligned field boundary to the immediate south. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.30m and was followed by a sand/clay/silt, 0.80m thick. The remaining 2.60m of the test pit comprised a stone-rich sand/clay/silt. The bedrock was identified at 3.70m below ground level.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 126

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 0.20m (l x w x d)

Description

This test pit was located to the north of the Tyddyn Pïoden at the western end of the development area. It was situated across the crest and side of a low-lying slope formed by an extensive rock outcrop that sloped to the north, in a similar location to Test Pit 118. The topsoil was extant to a maximum depth of 0.20m and lay directly on the bedrock (metamorphic schist).

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 127

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 0.30m (l x w x d)

Description

This test was located c.20.0m to the north of the Tyddyn Pïoden outbuildings, within the same field as Test Pit 118 (c.50m to the east). The test pit was situated across flat pasture near a modern fence boundary. Unlike Test Pit 118, there was no evidence for rock outcropping in this area. The topsoil was shallow, extant to a depth of 0.20m, atop a 0.30m thick layer of orange-brown silt. The bedrock was extant at 0.30m below ground level.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 128

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 2.80m (l x w x d)

Description

This test pit was located c.60m to the north of Test Pit 127 in the same field along the fenceline. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.50m. Below the topsoil was a clay-rich fine sand with very small stone inclusions, which was followed by a more granular clay-sand. The bedrock was identified at 2.80m below ground level.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 129

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 2.20m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located 30.0m to the northeast of Test Pit 131. There was a dry stone wall to the northwest, with a modern gate and what appeared to be demolition or an old yard beyond to the northwest. The area was level and comprised improved pasture. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.30m and sealed a 0.30m thick deposit of orange sand. Beneath this for a further 1.0m was an

orange/brown sand/gravel. Below this was a 0.5m thick deposit of silt/sand. Bedrock was struck at 2.2m and excavation was stopped.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 130

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 2.4m (l x w x d)

Description

This test pit was located to the south of Test Pit 131, a stone wall was situated c.12.0m to the southeast of the test pit, with a modern house immediately beyond the wall. The ground was level, improved pasture that appeared to have been recently disturbed or covered and possibly used as an old storage compound. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.30m and sealed a 0.20m thick deposit of demolition material, consisting of crushed and broken stone. Beneath this was a 0.20m thick deposit of bioturbated silt/sand. Below this deposit was a grey silt/sand with inclusions of sub-angular stone. Bedrock was struck at 2.4m and excavation was stopped. Towards the southwestern end of the original test pit, a section of mortared stone was uncovered. It did not quite extend across the test pit and was 0.97m wide, oriented apparently at right angles to the test pit. It consisted of irregular sub angular stones in a pale yellow/orange fairly hard sandy mortar. It had a finished flat upper surface as if it was a path or possibly the threshold of an access into a building (Plate 08). Although it appeared to have a deliberate end to the southeast, this was somewhat broken and irregular. It appeared to be set into a cut in the orange natural silty sand to the southwest, but to the northwest it was butted by a demolition deposit containing crushed and broken stone and occasional brick. It was located 0.35m below the present ground surface and was sealed by topsoil containing fragments of old painted wall plaster.

Interpretation

An examination of the available map evidence shows that the location of the test pit was part of the Merddyn Poeth Farm, within a small enclosure. The section of stonework represents some sort of structure possibly a farm outbuilding or shed. The demolition debris also uncovered may be associated. No date could be ascertained for the stonework.

Test Pit 131

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 3.20m (l x w x d)

Description

This test pit was located towards the northwestern end of the site, south of the former farm, Merddyn Poeth. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.40m and was followed by a 0.40m thick orange silt/sand. The remainder of the test pit comprised pale green-grey sand and sub-angular stone. The test pit was stopped at 3.20m due to the influx of the water table.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 132

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 2.80m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located adjacent to the road, opposite the leisure centre and near to the entrance gate onto the property and near to Test Pit 130. A gravel makeup and concrete surface ran to the north, with a drystone wall and wire fence, and overgrown hedge along the road edge to the west. Recent activity seems to have occurred here, possibly a contractors compound. A recent gravel yard extends c.25m to the southeast measuring 3.5m wide, with inclusions of demolition debris.

The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.30m and sealed a 0.15m thick deposit of silt/sand forming a very irregular undulating deposit. This overlay a 2.15m thick deposit of silt/sand containing frequent small to medium angular stones. The excavation was halted at a depth of 2.8m below the present ground surface when bedrock was struck.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 133

Size: 2.90m x 0.60m x 2.50m (l x w x d)

Description

This test pit was located within a flat pasture area at the eastern extremity of the development area near a nineteenth century field boundary. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.30m and was followed by a

1.40m thick deposit of boulder clay. Below this was a 0.80m thick deposit of grey silt with fragments of wood. Directly below this was the bedrock.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 134

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 0.20m (l x w x d)

Description

This test pit was located at the extreme northwestern end of the site near Merddyn Poeth Farm. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.20m and lay directly on the bedrock (metamorphic schist)

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 135

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m (l x w)

Description

This test pit was located 100m to the north of Test Pit 129, and to the northwest of a southwest to northeast wire fence. The area comprised improved pasture and sloped down very gently to the southeast and northwest, existing as a very localised high point. There seems to be a general slope all along the fence line i.e. the fence seems to be located in a linear hollow of some kind.

Interpretation

The test pit was aborted due to the immediate proximity of a gas main.

Test Pit 136

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 1.75m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located along the side of an east-west slope, which was part of a hillock crossing the northern side of a large, irregular shaped pasture field, c.50.0m south of Lôn Trefigniath. The topsoil was extant to a maximum depth of 0.40m (becoming deeper on the southern side in line with the slope). Below the topsoil was a 0.50m thick orange-brown sand/clay/silt, which was followed by a 0.10m thick beige-coloured sand/clay/silt. Below this deposit was a 0.60m thick stone-rich grey sand/clay/silt with frequent inclusions of sub-rounded and sub-angular stone. The remainder of the test pit comprised a shale-rich deposit. The test pit was stopped at 1.75m below ground level, where bedrock was identified.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 137

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 0.75m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located c.18.0m south of Lôn Trefigniath on the top of a flat hillock. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.40m and was followed by a 0.35m thick loose shale-rich clay-silt that was directly above the natural.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 138

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 3.10m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located to the west of Test Pit 124, in flat pasture between two hillocks. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.40m and was followed by a beige-yellow clay/silt, 0.60m thick. The remainder of the test pit comprised a grey silt/clay. The test pit was stopped at 3.10m below ground level due to the influx of the water table.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 139

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 1.90m (l x w x d)

Description

This test pit was located within a large enclosed field at the base of a hillock near a field boundary (c.35.0m to the east). The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.45m, followed by a 0.50m thick deposit of mottled yellow-brown clay/silt. This was followed by a grey-brown gravel-rich clay-silt. Bedrock was identified at 1.90m below ground level.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 140

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 0.30m (l x w x d)

Description

This test pit was located at the extreme northwestern end of the site near Merddyn Poeth Farm. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.20m and was followed by a 0.05m thick deposit of leached topsoil. Below this was a 0.05m thick deposit of orange-brown silt. Directly below this was the bedrock (metamorphic schist).

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 141

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 0.80m (l x w x d)

Description

This test pit was located at the extreme northwestern end of the site near Merddyn Poeth Farm. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.35m and was followed by a 0.45m thick deposit of silt. Directly below this was the bedrock (metamorphic schist) at 0.80m below ground level.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 142

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 0.50m (l x w x d)

Description

This test pit was located within flat pasture at the northern extremity of the development area. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.35m and was followed by a yellow-brown silt/clay with sub-angular stone inclusions. Directly below this was the bedrock at 0.50m below ground level.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 143

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 1.10m (l x w x d)

Description

This test pit was located at the northern end of an enclosed pasture field on a gentle east to west slope. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.30m and was followed by a diffuse orange-brown silt/clay deposit, 0.80m thick. Directly below this deposit was the bedrock (metamorphic schist).

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 144

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 3.90m (l x w x d)

Description

This test pit was located at the extreme northwestern end of the site near Merddyn Poeth Farm. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.40m and was followed by a 0.20m thick grey-brown silt clay. Below this was series of glacial silts, 3.30m thick that continued to the base of the test pit. The test pit was stopped at 3.90m below ground level; the bedrock was not identified.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 145

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 2.40m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located c.40.0m south of Lôn Trefigniath, west of an east-west aligned slope within flat pasture. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.30m, which was followed by a 0.20m thick yellow

grey clay/silt. Below this was a 0.60m thick grey-brown silt/clay. The remainder of the test pit comprised a grey-brown gravel-rich clay/silt. The test pit was stopped at 2.40m due to the influx of the water table. The bedrock was not identified.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 146

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 2.80m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located to the northeast of Test Pit 129 just beyond a wire fence. The fence replaced a partially extant drystone wall. The ground was level and consisted of improved pasture. The pit had originally been opened for a pressure/soakaway test down to 0.6m. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.30m and sealed a 1.2m thick deposit of silt/sand. Beneath this was a 0.75m thick deposit of sand/silt with frequent angular small stones. Below this was 0.55m of a pale grey very wet sandy silt with frequent angular small stones. Bedrock was struck at 2.8m below the present ground surface.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 147

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 2.00m (l x w x d)

Description

This test pit was opened for a “plate load” test, which involved removing the topsoil and then subjecting the underlying deposit to a weight integrity test. This was performed in several test pits along the proposed route of a road associated with the development. The test pit was located c.100m south of the Ty Mawr standing stone (PRN 2501) within an area of flat pasture. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.40m. No archaeological features were identified.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 148

Size: 2.10m x 0.60m x 1.90m (l x w x d)

Description

The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.40m and was a medium-brown loam, followed by two glacial deposits: a yellow-brown sand/silt, 0.45m thick and a coarse grey sand gravel, 1.05m thick. The test pit was stopped at 1.90m due to the influx of the water table.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 149

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 3.70m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located immediately to the northeast of the A55. The ground here sloped down steeply from the northeast to the southwest and was heavily overgrown with nettles, thistles and young trees. The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.45m and comprised a dark greyish brown sandy silt/clay containing brick, and plastic. The topsoil sealed a 1.35m thick deposit of silt/sand with moderate small angular stones, rare cream and red/orange brick fragments and occasional lenses of yellowish brown. The deposit became quite compacted with depth. Beneath this was a 1.2m thick deposit of a mid grey silt/sand, which contained small to medium angular stones, occasional large to very large angular boulders, and rare red/orange brick fragments. This overlay a dark brown sand/silt/clay that contained frequent small sub angular stones and some organic matter. The excavation was halted at a depth of 3.70m below the present ground surface, as the machine could dig no deeper.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the test pit.

Test Pit 150

Size: 9.50m x 0.60m (l x w)

Description

This test pit was opened to examine the extent of the peat deposit surrounding the wetland area and was located towards the western end of that area. The test pit was orientated north to south and the peat was identified at 7.65m from the southern end of the pit. No archaeology was identified.

Test Pit 151

Size: 6.80m x 0.60m (l x w)

Description

This test pit was opened to examine the extent of the peat deposit surrounding the wetland area and was located towards the centre of that area. The test pit was orientated north to south and the peat was identified at 1.20m from the southern end of the pit. No archaeology was identified.

Test Pit 152

Size: 8.50m x 0.60m (l x w)

Description

This test pit was opened to examine the extent of the peat deposit surrounding the wetland area and was located towards the centre of that area. There was a distinct layer of gravel below the topsoil and above the peat that contained fragments of post-medieval pottery. It appeared to have been deposited deliberately to act as a stabilising layer within the wetland area, to aid agricultural activity. A stone-filled field drain was breached at the northern end of the test pit, further revealing post-medieval farming activity.

Test Pit 153

Size: 8.50m x 0.60m (l x w)

Description

This test pit was opened to examine the extent of the peat deposit surrounding the wetland area and was located towards the south of that area. There was a distinct layer of gravel below the topsoil and above the peat that contained fragments of post-medieval pottery. It appeared to have been deposited deliberately to act as a stabilising layer within the wetland area, to aid agricultural activity.

Test Pit 154

Size: 6.50m x 0.60m (l x w)

Description

This test pit was opened to examine the extent of the peat deposit surrounding the wetland area. The test pit was orientated north to south and the peat was identified at 4.95m from the southern end of the pit. No archaeology was identified.

Test Pit 155

Size: 1.50m x 0.60m (l x w)

Description

This test pit was opened to examine the extent of the peat deposit surrounding the wetland area and was located towards the eastern end of that area. The test pit was orientated north to south and the peat was identified at 5.10m from the southern end of the pit. No archaeology was identified.

Test Pit 156

Size: 7.30m x 0.60m (l x w)

Description

This test pit was opened to examine the extent of the peat deposit surrounding the wetland area and was located towards the northeastern end of that area. The test pit was orientated north to south and the peat was identified at 5.10m from the southern end of the pit. No archaeology was identified.

Test Pit 157

Size: 12.20m x 0.60m (l x w)

Description

This test pit was opened to examine the extent of the peat deposit surrounding the wetland area and was located towards the north of that area. Below the topsoil was a layer of colluvium and below this was the peat deposit. No archaeology was identified.

Test Pit 158

Size: 1.50m x 0.60m (l x w)

Description

This test pit was opened to examine the extent of the peat deposit surrounding the wetland area and was located towards the southeastern corner of that area. The test pit was orientated north to south and the peat was identified at 2.00m from the southern end of the pit. There was a distinct layer of gravel below

the topsoil and above the peat that contained fragments of post-medieval pottery. It appeared to have been deposited deliberately to act as a stabilising layer within the wetland area, to aid agricultural activity.

The Soakaways

A series of “soakaway” tests were conducted across the development area in tandem with the test pits. The soakaways were of similar size to the geotechnical test pits and the procedure involved removing the topsoil and subjecting the underlying subsoil to a water permeability test.

SA011

Size: 2.60m x 0.60m x 2.60m (l x w x d)

Description

The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.30m and comprised a grey brown humic topsoil; two glacial deposits followed this: a red-brown glacial silt, 0.30m deep and a compact grey-brown gravel-sand, 2.00m deep. The test pit was stopped at 2.60m below ground level.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the soakaway.

SA028A

Size: 1.90m x 0.60m x 1.90m (l x w x d)

Description

The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.30m and comprised a dark-grey sandy loam; two glacial deposits followed this: a light grey silt, 0.25m thick and an orange-grey silt clay, 1.35m thick. The soakaway was stopped at 1.90m below ground level.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the soakaway

SA050A

Size: 1.90m x 0.60m x 1.90m (l x w x d)

Description

The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.30m and comprised grey-brown loam; this was followed by a light-brown sand, 0.2m deep. Following this was a silt/sand glacial deposit, with bedrock noted at 1.90m below ground level (schist metamorphic).

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the soakaway

SA050B

Size: 1.60m x 0.60m x 1.60m (l x w x d)

Description

The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.20m and comprised a grey-brown loam, followed by two glacial deposits: an orange-brown silt/clay, 0.30m thick and a grey sand/gravel, 0.80m thick. The soakaway was stopped at 1.60m below ground level.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the soakaway

SA068A

Size: 1.70m x 0.60m x 1.50m (l x w x d)

Description

The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.40m and comprised a dark-brown sandy loam; yellow-brown sandy loam, 0.40m thick and coarse grey-brown gravel 0.70m thick followed this.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the soakaway

SA090A

Size: 3.00m x 0.60m x 0.68m (l x w x d)

Description

The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.25m and comprised a grey-brown loam followed by a 0.20m thick light-brown loam subsoil. Below this deposit was the remains of a stone wall and a cobbled surface. The soakaway was orientated east to west and the stone wall comprised two equal sized stone

slabs (metamorphic schist) located at the western end of the test pit. The cobbled surface continued eastwards from the wall for the remainder of the soakaway and comprised sub-rounded pebblestones (Plate 07; Figure 11). The cobbled surface was investigated and a piece of black-glazed pottery was discovered below one of the cobbles. The removal of several pebblestones also confirmed that the cobbled surface was laid onto a glacial deposit.

Interpretation

The recovery of several sherds of black-glazed ware from the topsoil as well as another sherd from below the cobbled surface, confirmed that the archaeological activity within the soakaway was of post-medieval date and most likely represented the partial remains of a farm building or farmyard. The features were not excavated further but the location of the soakaway was moved several metres to the west and reopened as SA090B and the archaeology was preserved *in situ*. An examination of the available map evidence shows that the feature in SA090A was most likely part of a small enclosure represented on the 1817 Penrhos Estate Map of the area (Figure 8). This enclosure was no longer extant on the 1889 25" First Edition Ordnance Survey Map (Figure 9).

SA090B

Size: 0.80m x 0.60m x 1.60m (l x w x d)

Description

This soakaway was opened in response to the archaeology discovered in SA090A and was located several metres to the west. The topsoil was a grey sandy loam 0.30m deep, followed by a red-orange coarse gravel, which was identified as a glacial deposit. The soakaway was stopped at 1.60m.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the soakaway. There was no evidence for the continuation of the post-medieval agricultural activity identified in SA090A.

SA117A

Size: 1.50m x 0.60m x 1.00m (l x w x d)

Description

The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.40m and comprised a medium brown sandy loam; a red-brown sandy loam, 0.60m thick, followed this. The soakaway was stopped at 1.00m below ground level.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the soakaway except for several sherds of modern glazed pottery indicative of farming activity

SA122A

Size: 1.50m x 0.60m x 1.00m (l x w x d)

Description

The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.30m and comprised a dark grey-brown sandy loam; an orange-brown drift deposit, 0.30m thick and an orange-grey sand glacial deposit, 0.40m thick, followed this. The soakaway was stopped at 1.00m below ground level.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the soakaway except for several sherds of modern glazed pottery indicative of farming activity.

Three inspection pits were opened across the development area to investigate the location of a system of post-medieval culverts. This was achieved by stripping the topsoil from above the location of the culvert and recording the size and orientation of the structure. The first location was at the western end of the site within the wetland area. The culvert at this location was built from concrete and measured 0.76m in width and 1.46m in length. The second location was at the eastern end of the wetland area. The trench was 5.00m long and identified a stone-built culvert at 1.60m below ground level. The culvert was constructed from locally sourced stone and appeared earlier in construction. The final location was c.30.0m west of the A55. The culvert here was constructed from concrete and the area had been re-landscaped during the construction of the A55.

SA144

Size: 1.60m x 0.60m x 1.60m (l x w x d)

Description

The topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.25m and comprised dark-brown silty loam; two glacial deposits followed this: orange-brown silt with inclusions of small pebblestones, 0.30 thick and an orange-grey silt-gravel, 1.05m thick.

Interpretation

No archaeological remains were identified in the soakaway

4.5 Conclusion

Archaeology

A total of 152 test pits and ten soakaways were opened across the site with the intention of identifying the depth of the bedrock and differentiating the layers of strata extant between the topsoil and the bedrock. The Gwynedd Archaeological Trust had previously evaluated the site in 2001 and 2004 and identified several areas of archaeological interest related to prehistoric and Romano-British activity, as well as post-medieval agricultural activity. The 2006 watching brief identified thirteen test pits with evidence of archaeological activity. These were Test Pits 33, 37, 46, 54, 62, 64, 67, 69, 74, 82, (SA)90(A), 105 and 130.

Test Pits 33 and 82 were inconclusive as they contained rather amorphous features that may simply have been tree boles.

Test Pits 37, 54, 62 and 64 contained post-medieval field drains associated with post-medieval farming activity.

Test Pits 67 and 130 contained redundant field boundary walls associated with post-medieval farming activity.

Soakaway SA90A contained activity associated with post-medieval farming.

Test Pit 046 contained a shallow linear feature interpreted as a post-medieval boundary ditch or plough scar.

There was also limited evidence of prehistoric activity: Test Pit 74 contained a struck flint, whilst Test Pit 105 contained a thumbnail scraper. There were no features associated with either example and the scraper from Test Pit 105 was recovered from the topsoil, but they did suggest localised prehistoric activity. Neither example was located near any of the sites identified during the 2001/2004 evaluation phases.

Test Pit 69 contained a stone surface covered by a possible occupation horizon. No datable artefacts were recovered but the test pit was located close to the site of Iron Age/Romano-British activity identified during the 2004 evaluation, and, by extension, could be seen as part of the same activity.

No archaeological remains were identified in the remaining test pits.

Pedology/Geology

The topsoil across the development site varied in depth from 0.15m (Test Pit 015) to 1.10m (Test Pit 021), but the average depth was 0.30m and the topsoil was generally a light to mid-brown clay-silt. Variations included topsoil of degraded peat in the boggy area (e.g. Test Pits 042, 043 and 047) and the topsoil in Test Pits 021 and 024, which were very irregular and mixed in with the hillwash. The topsoil in Test Pits 062 to 071 averaged 0.40m in depth and was a grey-brown sand/clay/silt.

The deposits below the topsoil were glacial and/or alluvial in origin and varied considerably in composition and depth. The area towards the northwestern end of the site was indicative of the former river terrace and contained many of the deepest test pits, where, in some cases, the bedrock was not identified at depths of up to 3.50m b.p.g.l. To the south of this, the glacial deposits were more indicative of drift geology, represented by deposits of orange-brown silt; whilst, in the lowland central area, there was a distinct band of peat atop boulder clay. The southern end of the site was characterised by rock outcrops and shallow bedrock with drift geology.

The bedrock was often located at considerable depth below ground level. The only areas where the bedrock was shallow (i.e. 1.00m or less below ground level) was at the southern and northwestern ends of the site. At the southern end of the site the Test Pits with shallow bedrock were Test Pits 004, 006, 016 and 023; at the northwestern end of the site, they were Test Pits 134, 140, 141, 142 and 143. The

only other example was Test Pit 068 at the eastern end of the site (see Figure 2 for the location of these test pits).

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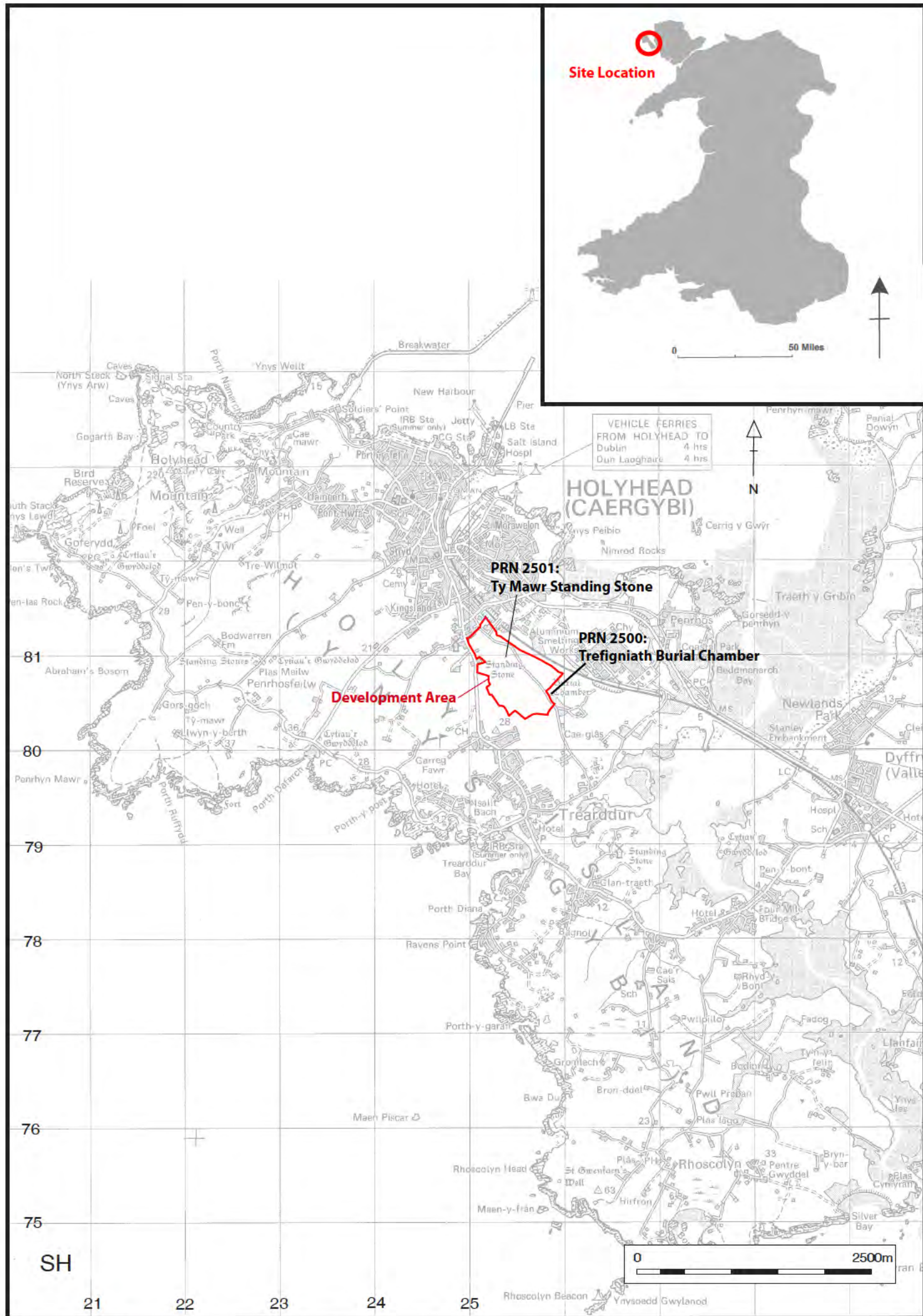


Figure 1. Site location.

Figure 3. Area A

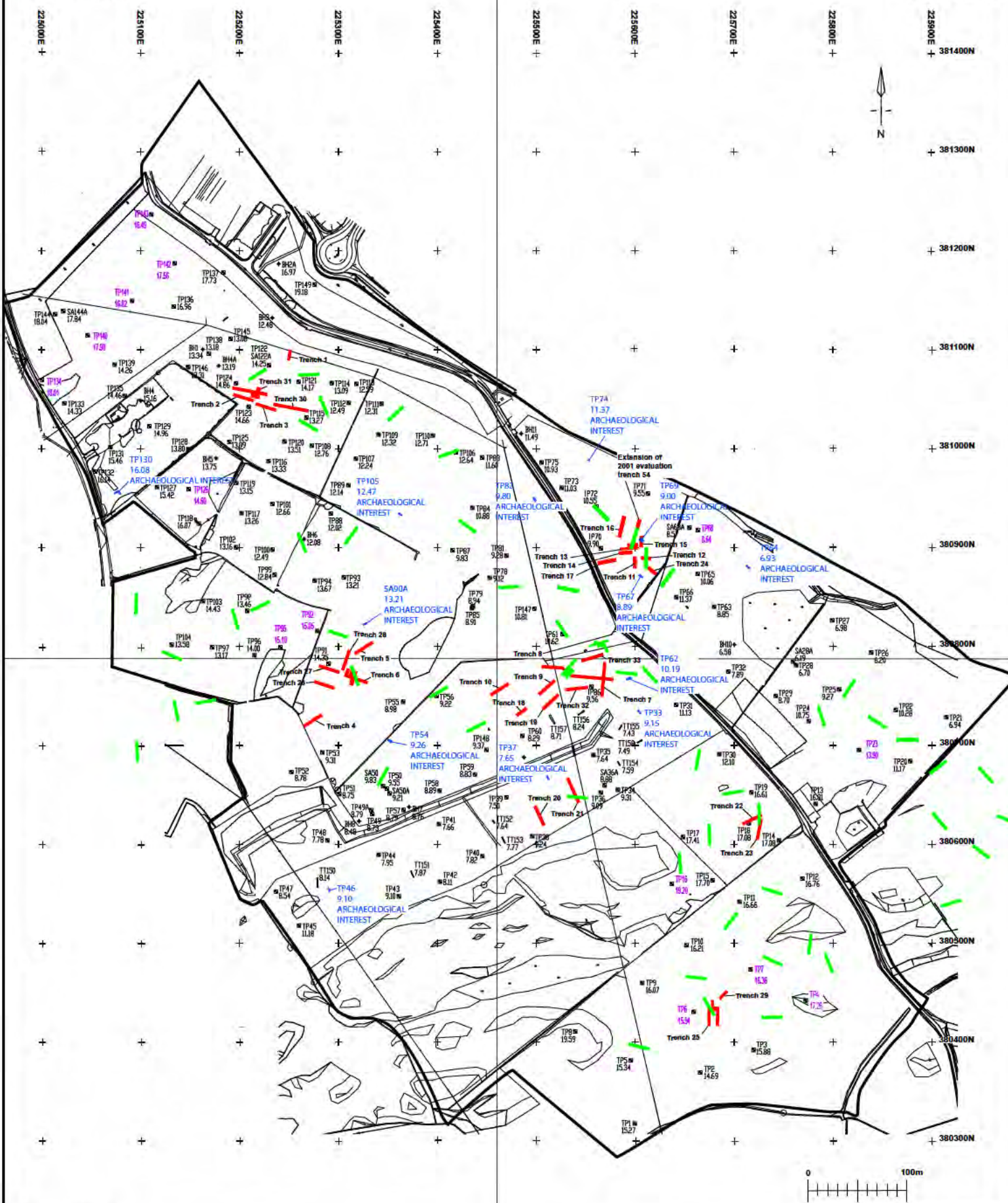


Figure 4. Area B



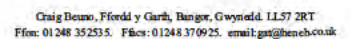
Figure 5. Area C

Figure 6. Area D

- TP6 Bedrock less than 1.00m below ground level
- TP6 Bedrock more than 1.00m below ground level
- 2001 Evaluation Trenches
- 2004 Evaluation Trenches

- BH Borehole
- TP Trial Pit
- SA Soakaway

Figure 2. Ty Mawr development area



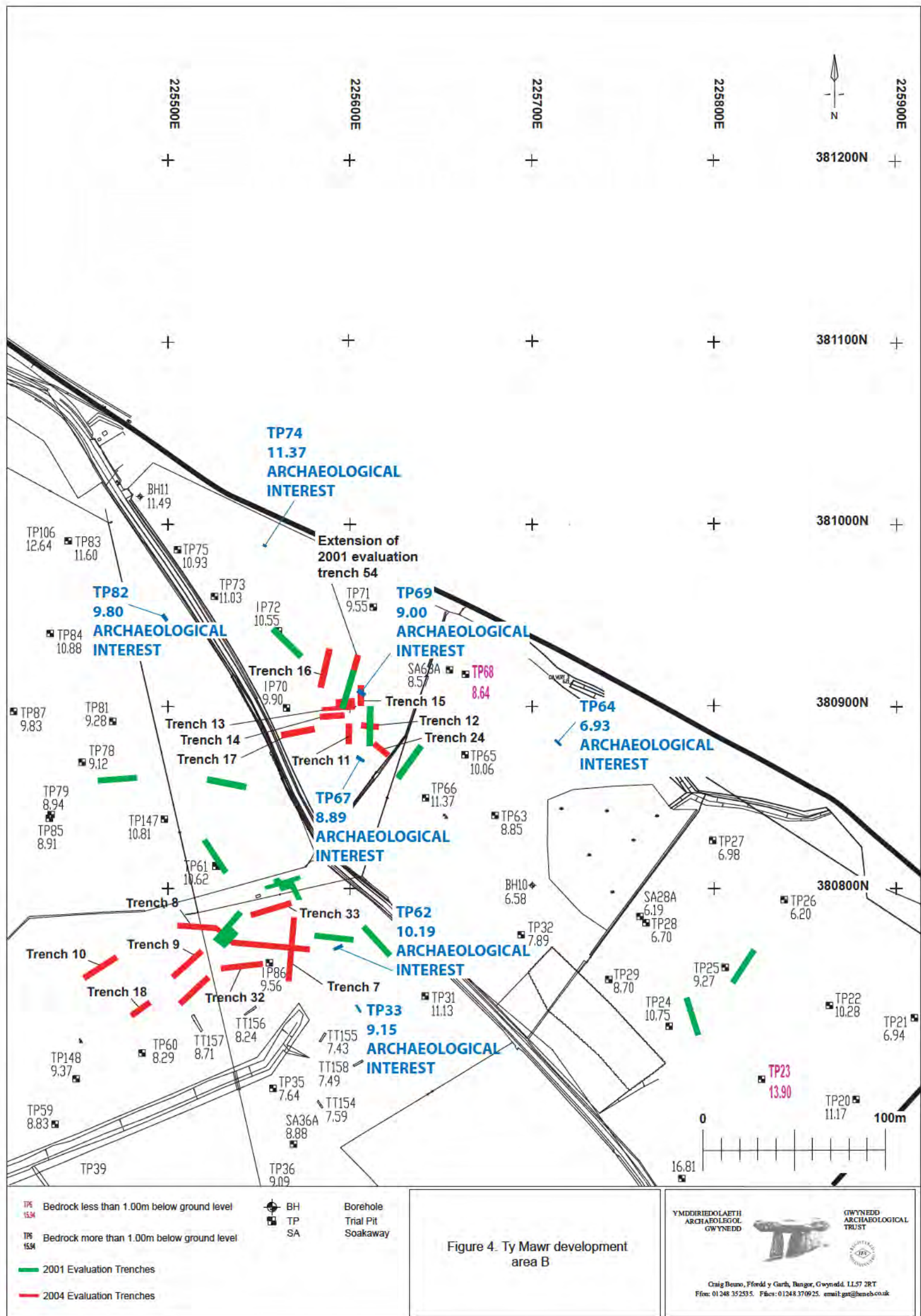


Figure 4. Ty Mawr development area B

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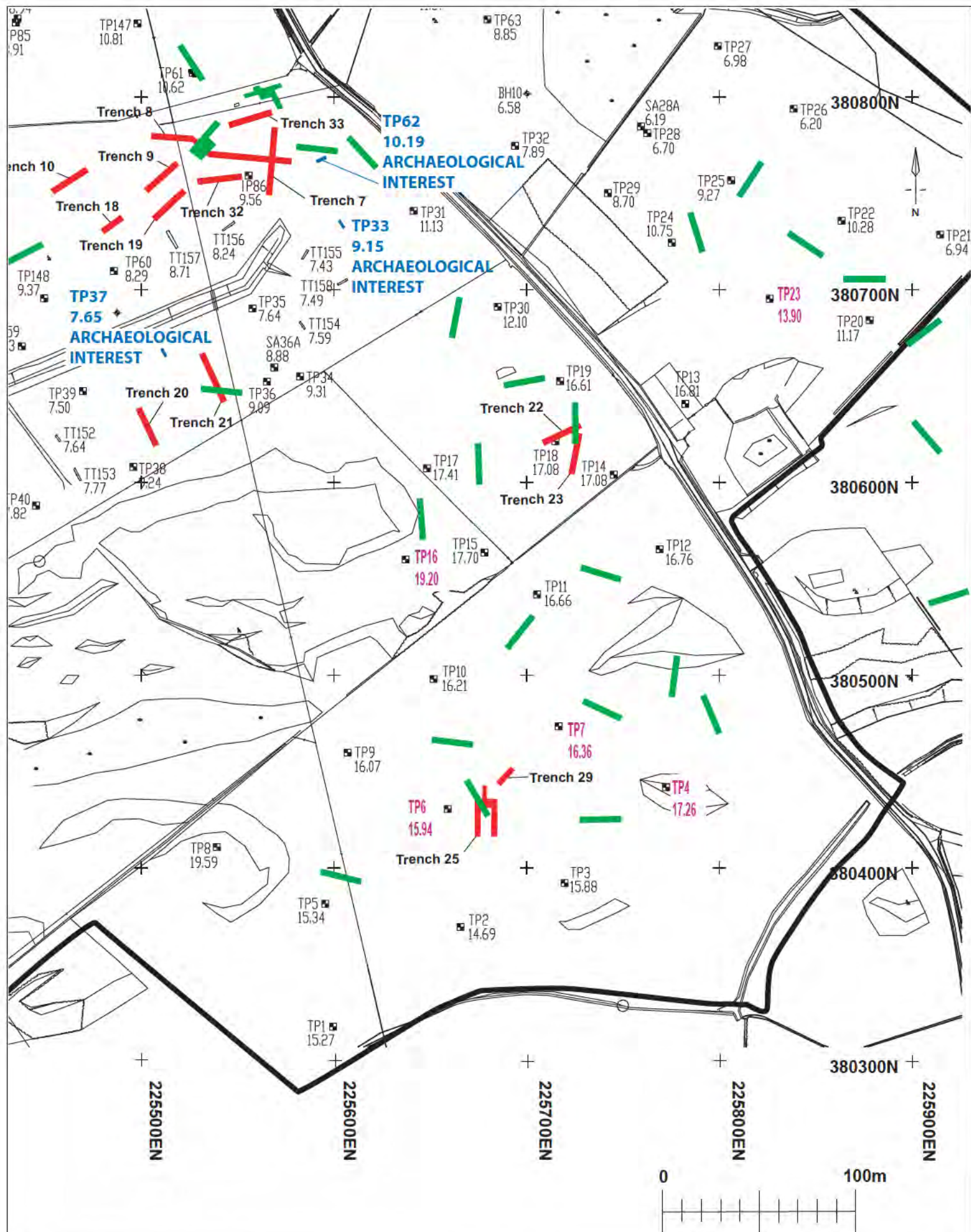


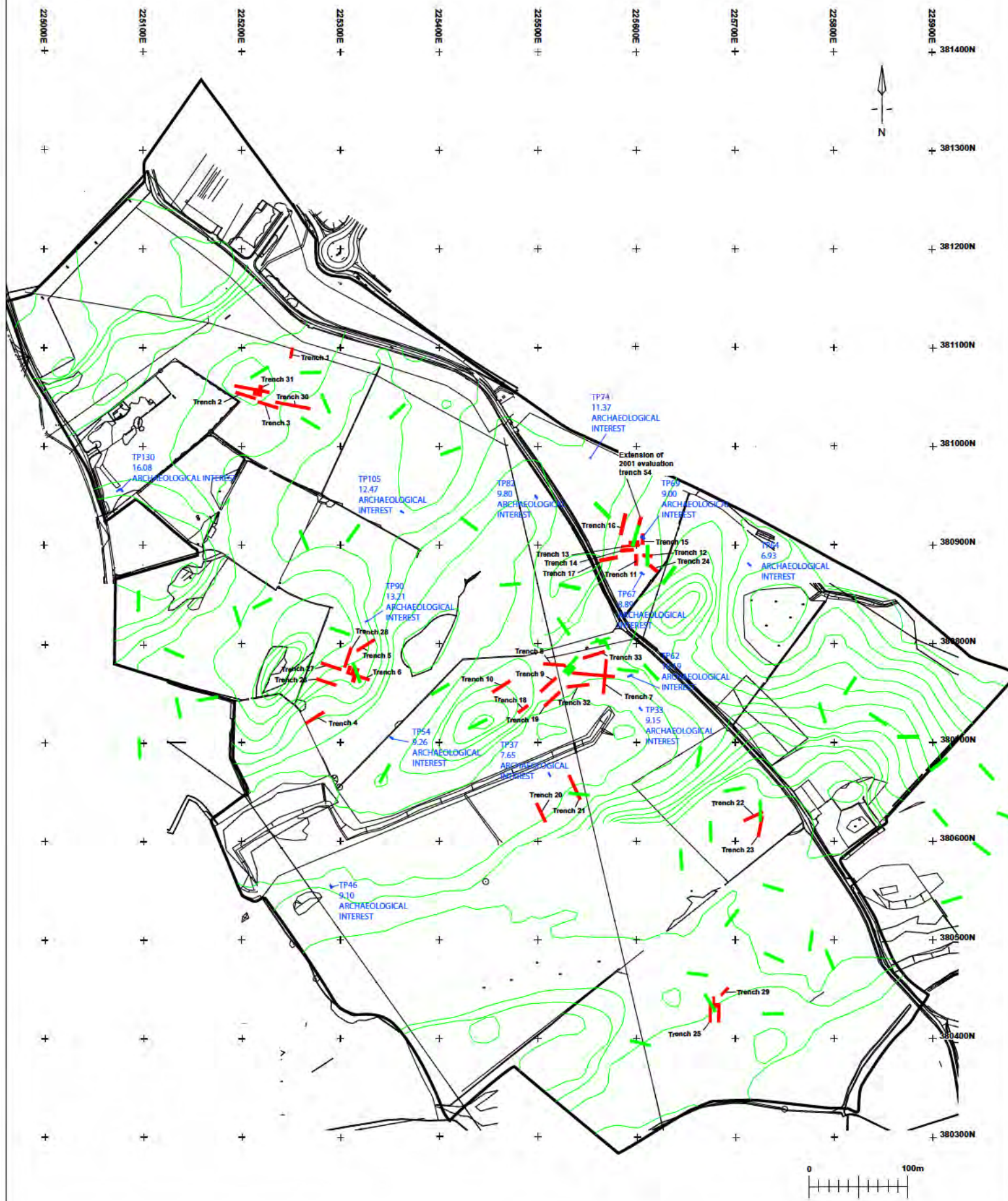
Figure 6. Ty Mawr development area D

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- 2001 Evaluation Trenches
- 2004 Evaluation Trenches
- Contours

Figure 7. Ty Mawr contour map

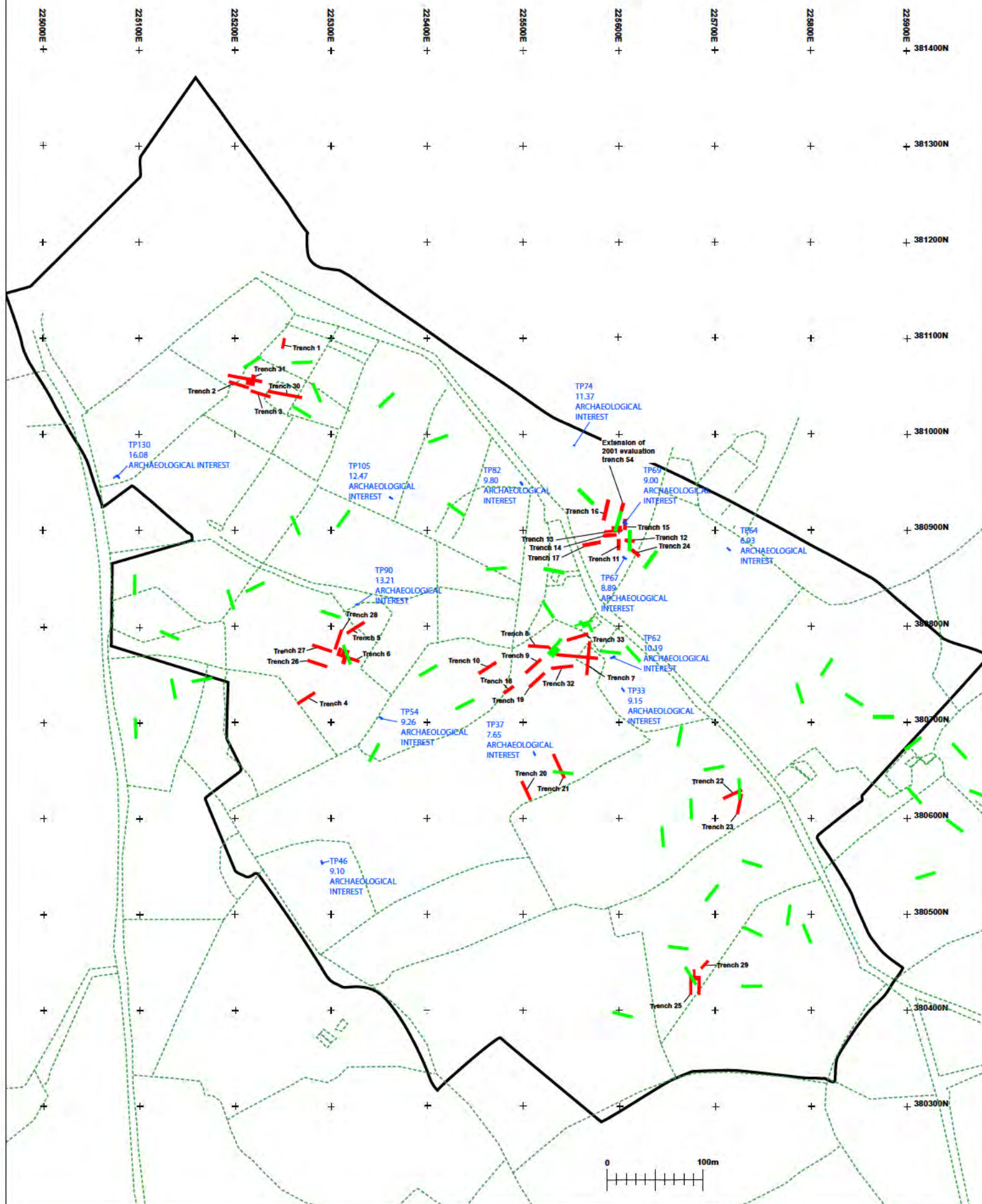


Figure 8. Ty Mawr 1817 Estate
Map transposed over current
site plan

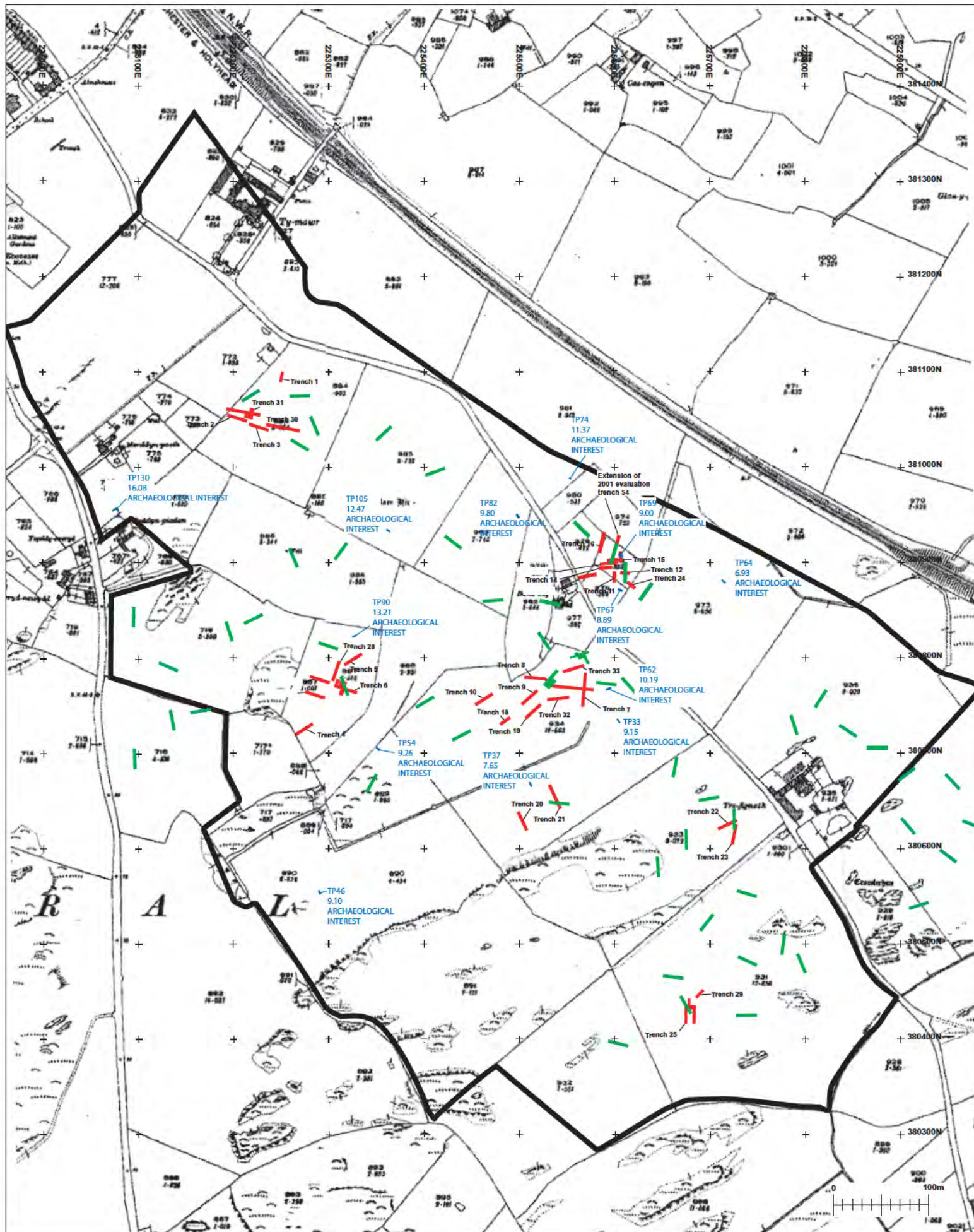
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2001 Evaluation Trenches
2004 Evaluation Trenches

Figure 10. Ty Mawr Ordnance Survey 3rd Edition transposed over current site plan. Ordnance Survey County Series 25". Anglesey. X.7, X.6, XI.1, XI.0. 1924

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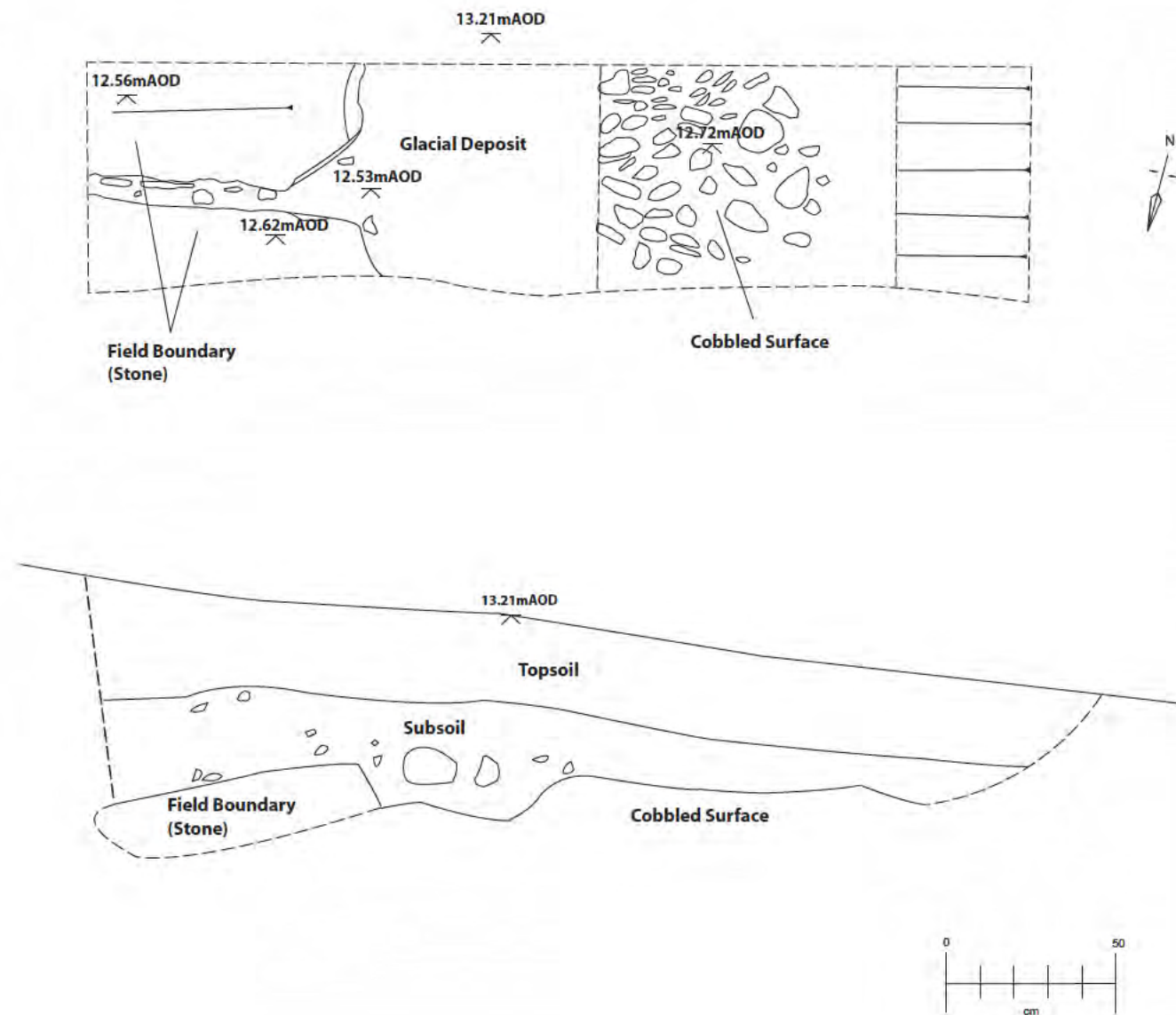


Figure 11. SA09A:
NNW-Facing Elevation and Plan

SCALE: 1:20 at A4



Plate 01: Test Pit 46: Linear Feature



Plate 02: Test Pit 54: Field Drain



Plate 03: Test Pit 62: Field Drain and Ditch



Plate 04: Test Pit 64: Field Drain



Plate 05: Test Pit 67: Post-Medieval Field Boundary



Plate 06: Test Pit 69: Occupation Layer and Stone Surface



Plate 07: SA90A: Post-Medieval Cobbled Surface and Field Boundary



Plate 08: Test Pit 130: Post-Medieval Structure



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