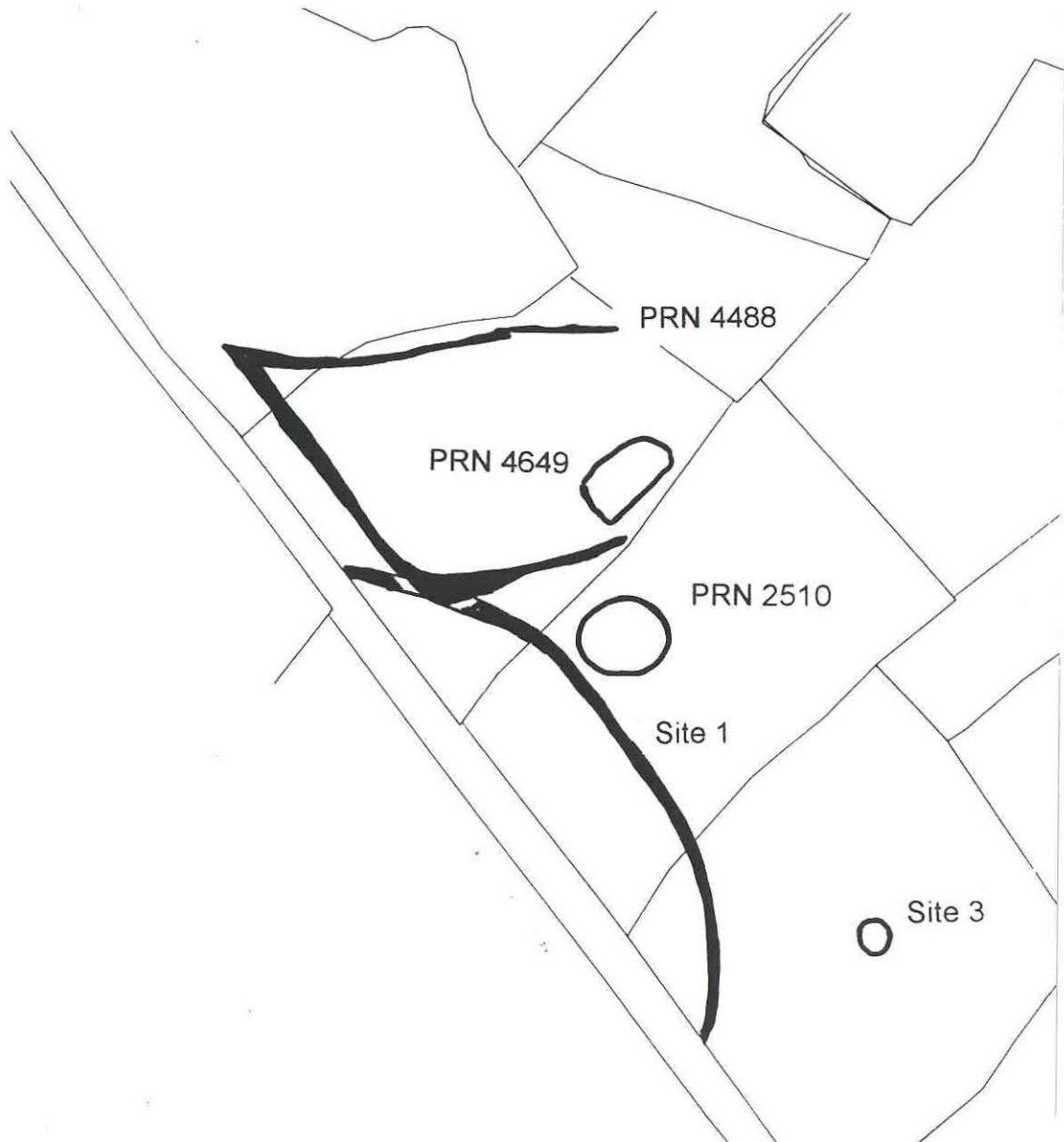


THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

*Llandinam - Llanwrin Water Mains,
Stage 1 - Llandinam - Talerddig*
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION



CPAT Report No 252

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*Llandinam - Llanwrin Water Mains,
Stage 1 - Llandinam -Talerddig*
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

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November 1997

Report for Severn Trent Water Ltd.

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CPAT Report Record

Report and status

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CONTENTS

- 1 INTRODUCTION
- 2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND SOILS
- 3 EXCAVATIONS
- 4 CONCLUSION
- 5 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
- 6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

APPENDIX 1: SPECIFICATIONS

APPENDIX 2: SITE ARCHIVE

Figure 1 - Location of Llandinam - Llanwrin Pipeline Corridor.

Figure 2 - Trench Locations

Figure 3 - NNW - SSE section of Feature 002

Figure 4 - Sections through Features 030, 040 and 060

Figure 5 - Neolithic Pottery sherd from Evaluation.

Plate 1 - Feature 002 from SSE

Plate 2 - Feature 019 from W

Plate 3 - Feature 030

Plate 4 - Feature 040

Plate 5 - Features 030 and 040 from NNW

Plate 6 - Feature 060

Plate 7 - Trench 2 from NNW

Plate 8 - Trench 3 from NNW

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At the request of Binnie, Black and Veatch, acting on behalf of Severn Trent Water Ltd., a Brief (CPAT Exc 241 dated the 11/09/97) was drawn up by the Curatorial Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT Curatorial), for the excavation of archaeological features within a 1.5m x 250m section of the Llandinam to Llanwrin water mains pipeline corridor (Fig. 1) at Pontdolgoch between NGR SO 01629320 and SO 01759303 (Fig. 2).
- 1.2 Previous archaeological evaluation (Gibson 1997) had identified features of possible archaeological significance in the above area. Detailed geophysical investigation, aerial photograph interpretation and trial excavation identified the area as having a relatively high archaeological potential. Sites visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs outside the wayleave corridor included a ring ditch (PRN 2510), interpreted as a Neolithic or bronze age burial mound, a possible Neolithic long barrow (PRN 4649), and a rectilinear ditched area interpreted as a later prehistoric field system (PRN 4488) (ibid., 5). The latter site could be seen from aerial photographs to overlie a curved cropmark feature (Site 1; Fig. 2), and this indicated that Site 1 is earlier than PRN 4488. The recovery of a sherd of Neolithic pottery of the Grimston-Lyles Hill tradition (Fig. 5) from a linear feature within Site 1, and the presence of potential archaeological features (ibid.) supported the interpretation of this site as a possible prehistoric enclosure (ibid., 6). Site 1 was partially bisected by the pipeline corridor. The subsequent brief therefore recommended total excavation and recording of all visible archaeological features within the construction trench at the location cited above.
- 1.3 The Contracts Section of the Clwyd and Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT Contracts) was invited to submit a tender and specification (Appendix 1) for this excavation, which was subsequently accepted.

2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND SOILS

- 2.1 The excavation trench was situated c.1km NW of Caersws and 0.5km SE of Pontdolgoch at approximately 130m OD, on the floodplain of the Afon Garno.
- 2.2 The soils belong to the Rheidol soil series, consisting of brown earths of silty clay loam or clay loam texture overlying coarse loamy gravel on terrace and glacial deposits (Clare 1974, 35). This local drift geology is derived from Lower Palaeozoic sediments. Solid geology consists of mudstones, siltstones and sandstones of the Silurian Llandovery series. The site lies in an area of agricultural pasture.

3 EXCAVATIONS

- 3.1 The excavation took place within the construction trench of the pipeline, which measured 220m x 1.5m, widening to 5.6m towards its NNW end. The trench itself was divided into three sections separated by access routes, and these areas were designated Trenches 1, 2 and 3 for recording purposes (Fig. 2). Within this area the topsoil had already been removed by machine down to the level of the archaeological features, at an average depth of 0.40m. The bases of the trenches were cleaned by hand and investigated for the presence of any archaeological features. All possible features were then manually half-sectioned to determine their nature. A full written, drawn and photographic record was maintained throughout the excavation.
- 3.2 **Trench 1 (100m x 1.5 - 5.6m)**
- 3.2.1 The possible enclosure ditch (002) identified in the previous archaeological evaluation (Gibson 1997, Site 1) was investigated towards the NNW end of Trench 1. A 1m wide section of the feature was excavated to determine its nature (Fig. 3 and Plate 1). The feature was 15m wide, had a long, gently sloping, irregular profile with a flat irregular base and was up to 0.55m in depth. Its fills consisted of a red-brown compact clay (003) overlying a red-brown gravelly clay loam with occasional charcoal flecks (004), a compact, grey-brown silty clay (007), a loose red-brown clayey gravel with larger clasts (005) and a basal fill of grey-green gravelly clay with larger clasts (006). No finds were recovered. The width, morphology and profile of this section suggests that this feature is a natural palaeochannel.

- 3.2.2 Towards the SSE end of Trench 1 a linear feature (019), was identified running diagonally (approximately ESE-WSW) across the trench (Plate 2). The feature was filled with a homogenous red-brown gravelly clay loam with larger clasts (020) and was 0.35m wide. The feature had been cut through the topsoil and the upper part of it had been removed by mechanical excavation, especially towards the WSW. Cleaning of this feature uncovered two sherds of post-medieval pottery. No further investigations of this feature were undertaken. The nature of the finds and the fact that the feature cuts into the topsoil indicates that it is a modern feature.
- 3.2.3 Approximately 7m to the SSE of feature 019 a second similar linear feature (030) was identified, and it had a similar orientation. It had a U-shaped profile, measuring 0.4m wide and 0.35m deep and had also been cut through the topsoil (Fig. 4, Plate 3). The feature had a poorly sorted homogenous fill of red-brown loose gravelly clay loam with larger clasts (031). No finds were recovered.
- 3.2.4 A third linear feature was visible crossing the trench diagonally 4.7m SSE of 030. This feature (040) (Fig. 4, Plate 4) had the same general orientation as 019 and 030 (Plate 5). The feature was also U-shaped in profile, 0.36m wide and 0.25m deep and also cut through the topsoil. Its fill consisted of an homogenous red-brown gravelly clay loam with larger clasts (041). No finds were recovered from this feature.
- 3.2.5 The similarities in fill, orientation and morphology may indicate that they are contemporary features functioning as field drains, possibly of post-medieval agricultural origin.
- 3.2.6 Two further sherds of post-medieval pottery and a fragment of modern glass were recovered from topsoil contexts during the process of cleaning the trench.
- 3.2.7 Investigation of a further 8 possible features visible in Trench 1 revealed each to be of natural origin, either as a result of geological, animal or tree activity as characterised by a shallow (less than 0.3m in depth), irregular profile, subrounded plan with homogenous fills of gravelly clay loam with larger clasts and a lack of finds. In some cases the gravelly clay loam fills of these features were also visible to the top of the trench sections.
- 3.3 **Trench 2** (80m x 1.5m ; Plate 7)
- 3.3.1 Feature (060) was located towards the NNW end of Trench 2. This linear feature crossed the trench diagonally on an orientation of ESE-WSW, and had been cut through the topsoil. Investigation determined it to have a truncated U-shaped profile, 0.40m deep and 0.35m wide (Fig. 4, Plate 6). The feature had an homogenous fill of red-brown gravelly clay loam with a high percentage of silt and some larger clasts (061). The feature had the same general orientation as features (019), (030) and (040) in Trench 1, and this, along with the similarities in profile and fill, suggests a similarity of function.
- 3.3.2 Approximately 6 other potential archaeological features were investigated, each of which proved to be of natural origin, again subrounded in plan, with shallow irregular profiles and homogeneous fills of red brown gravelly clay loams with larger clasts. No finds were recovered.
- 3.4 **Trench 3** (22m x 1.5m; Plate 8)
- 3.4.1 No other features of archaeological significance were visible in Trench 3 apart from the SSW curve of the palaeochannel (Fig. 8) investigated in Trench 1. After consultation with Mr M.Walters of CPAT Curatorial it was decided not to investigate this feature.

4 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The majority of the features investigated proved to be natural in origin with the exception of (019), (030), (040) and (060). These features are likely to be post-medieval in date and of an agricultural function, possibly attempting to drain an area of marshy ground to the west of the site. The Neolithic sherd recovered in the course of the previous evaluation is therefore likely to represent a residual deposit. As this sherd is fragile and therefore unlikely to have survived transport for long distances, it still provides a strong indication for Neolithic activity in the immediate area.
- 4.2 The investigation of the possible prehistoric enclosure ditch which was identified during the previous evaluation has suggested that it may be best interpreted as a palaeochannel.

5 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank the following for their assistance and co-operation during this project; Binnie Black and Veatch, Severn Trent Water Ltd., Kathryn Thomas, Pat Frost and Richard Hankinson, Nigel Jones and Alex Gibson.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Clare, K.E., 1974, *Soils in Powys I, Soils Survey Record No. 28*, Dorking, The Soil Survey of England and Wales.

Gibson, A.M., 1997, *Llandinam-Llanwrin Water Mains, Stage 1 - Llandinam-Talerddig: Archaeological Evaluation*, Welshpool, CPAT Report No. 238.

APPENDIX 1 - SPECIFICATION

LLANDINAM-LLANWRIN PIPELINE STAGE 1 SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION BY THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST.

Introduction

- 1.1 The proposed development at Pontdolgoch (SO 01629320 - SO 1759303) involves the laying of a new water mains pipe as part of the Stage 1 Llandinam-Llanwrin water mains construction. The site lies 1km NW OD Caersws, 0.5km SE of Pontdolgoch and immediately E of the A470.
- 1.2 Aerial photography and geophysical prospecting revealed traces of a wide curving feature interpreted as an enclosure ditch. Vague internal features were interpreted as possible post medieval in date and agricultural in origin. Subsequent archaeological evaluation by CPAT Contracts proved the archaeological nature of this ditch and also recovered a sherd of presumed Neolithic pottery from one of the linear features (CPAT Report 238). Subsequent topsoil removal has located both ends of the presumed enclosure ditch as well as further internal features which may be agricultural in origin.
- 1.3 The Curatorial Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT Curatorial) in their capacity as archaeological advisors to Severn Trent Water, have determined that an excavation is necessary to preserve the sites by record in advance of their destruction. Accordingly a brief (No EXC 241, dated 11th September 1997) has been prepared by CPAT Curatorial which describes the scheme of archaeological works required.

2 Objectives

- 2.1 The objectives of the excavation are:
 - 2.1.1 to reveal by means of total excavation the nature, condition, significance and, where possible, the chronology of the archaeology within the area of the proposed development in so far as these aims are possible;
 - 2.1.2 to record any archaeology revealed in the excavation trenches;
 - 2.1.3 to undertake a programme of post-excavation research, incorporating specialist reports where necessary, securing the full analysis and interpretation of the sites affected;
 - 2.1.4 to prepare an archive of the excavation and a report suitable for publication in which the results of the excavation are outlined and discussed;

3 Methods

- 3.1 The 1.5x250m area has already been topsoil-stripped to the level at which archaeological features become visible.
- 3.2 The area will be excavated manually, with all features 3-dimensionally tied into the OS grid.
- 3.3 Significant archaeological deposits will be sampled for palaeoenvironmental data and materials suitable for absolute dating.
- 3.5 All archaeological contexts recorded using the standard numbered context system employed by CPAT. All significant contexts to be planned and/or drawn in section at appropriate scales (as defined in the Curatorial Brief), and photographed in monochrome and colour (slide and print). All drawn records will be related to control points depicted on modern maps.

- 3.6 All archaeological artefacts and environmental samples will be recorded and processed in a manner appropriate to the material involved. Those requiring conservation or other specialist treatment will be stored in a stable environment until such times as they can be examined by a specialist. All finds, except those deemed to be Treasure Trove, are the property of the landowner. It is anticipated that they will be donated to the appropriate local or regional museum, subject to agreement being reached with the landowner and the museum curator.
- 3.7 Subsequent to the excavation, the research potential of the site archive will be assessed and a report and archive prepared accordingly. The full potential of the archive cannot be known at this stage and consequently contingency sums must be reserved for use against possible specialist needs. These may include: palaeoenvironmental analysis (G Morgan, University of Leicester), Radiocarbon dating (Queen's University Belfast), ceramics analysis (CPAT), lithics analysis (Ms P Bradley, Oxford), bone analysis (Mrs S Stead, Ashwell, Herts), finds conservation (G Morgan, University of Leicester) and professional drafting (BV Williams, Oswestry). Financial provision for a publication grant should also be made.
- 3.6 The site archive will be prepared to specifications laid out in Appendix 3 in the Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage, 1991).
- 3.7 The excavation will then be published at a suitable level and in a suitable format.

4 Resources and Programming

- 4.1 The excavation will be undertaken by a small team of 4 skilled archaeologists under the direct supervision of an experienced field archaeologist. Overall supervision will be by Dr A Gibson, a senior member of CPAT's staff who is also a member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.
- 4.2 All report preparation and specialist liaison/integration will be completed by the same field archaeologist who conducted the excavation.
- 4.3 It is anticipated that the excavation will take no more than four weeks in all and that the subsequent report would be prepared immediately thereafter, dependent on the client's instructions and the arrangement of a suitable timetable. The date of commencement, at the time of writing, has yet to be agreed with the client, and will be dependent on the state of the site and agreed access. The archaeological curator will be informed of the detailed timetable and staffing levels when agreement has been reached with the client.
- 4.4 Requirements relating to Health and Safety regulations will be adhered to by CPAT and its staff.
- 4.5 CPAT is covered by appropriate Public and Employer's Liability insurance.

A.M. Gibson
15th September 1997

APPENDIX 2 - SITE ARCHIVE

Site Data

39 Context sheets

7 A4 site plans/sections

4 A1 site plans/sections

LLP 97 749 EDM survey data including Trench 1, 2, 3 locations

AutoCAD12 drawing 749base.dwg

2 black and white negative films, prints and contact prints, CPAT Archive Nos. 655 and 656

2 colour slide films, CPAT Archive Nos. CS 97/54 and CS 97/56

1 colour print films, CPAT Archive No. 659

photographic catalogue

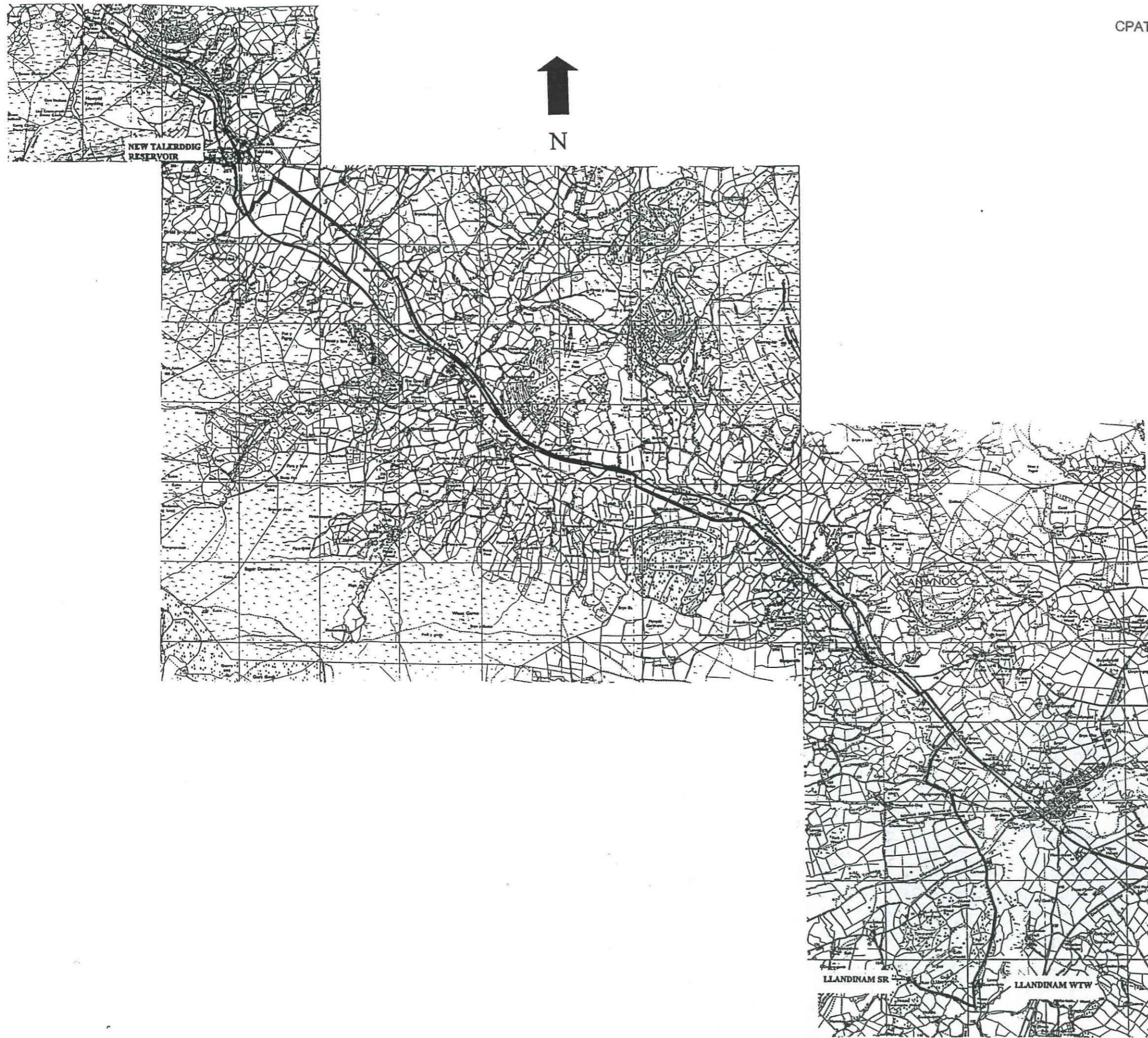
Correspondence

Finds

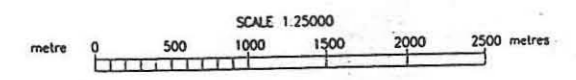
4 sherds post-Medieval pottery.

1 piece modern glass.

The site archive has been retained by CPAT.



NEW 300MM NOMINAL BORE PIPELINE



ISSUED FOR CONSTRUCTION

ST Severn Trent Water			
Llandinam To Llanwrin Main Stage 1			
PIPELINE ROUTE PLAN			
Contract No. 5170	Approved: <i>M.L.S. Rott</i>	Date: 26-2-97	Contract Drawing No.
BINNIE BLACK & VEATCH <small>Civil, Marine, Storage, Road, Urban, Rural & 12.5, 15.0, 17.5, 20.0, 22.5, 25.0, 27.5, 30.0, 32.5, 35.0, 37.5, 40.0, 42.5, 45.0, 47.5, 50.0, 52.5, 55.0, 57.5, 60.0, 62.5, 65.0, 67.5, 70.0, 72.5, 75.0, 77.5, 80.0, 82.5, 85.0, 87.5, 90.0, 92.5, 95.0, 97.5, 100.0</small>		SCALES AS STATED Drawing No. 5170-01	

Fig 1. Location of the Llandinam-Llanwrin Pipeline Corridor: stage I, Llandinam-Talerddig.

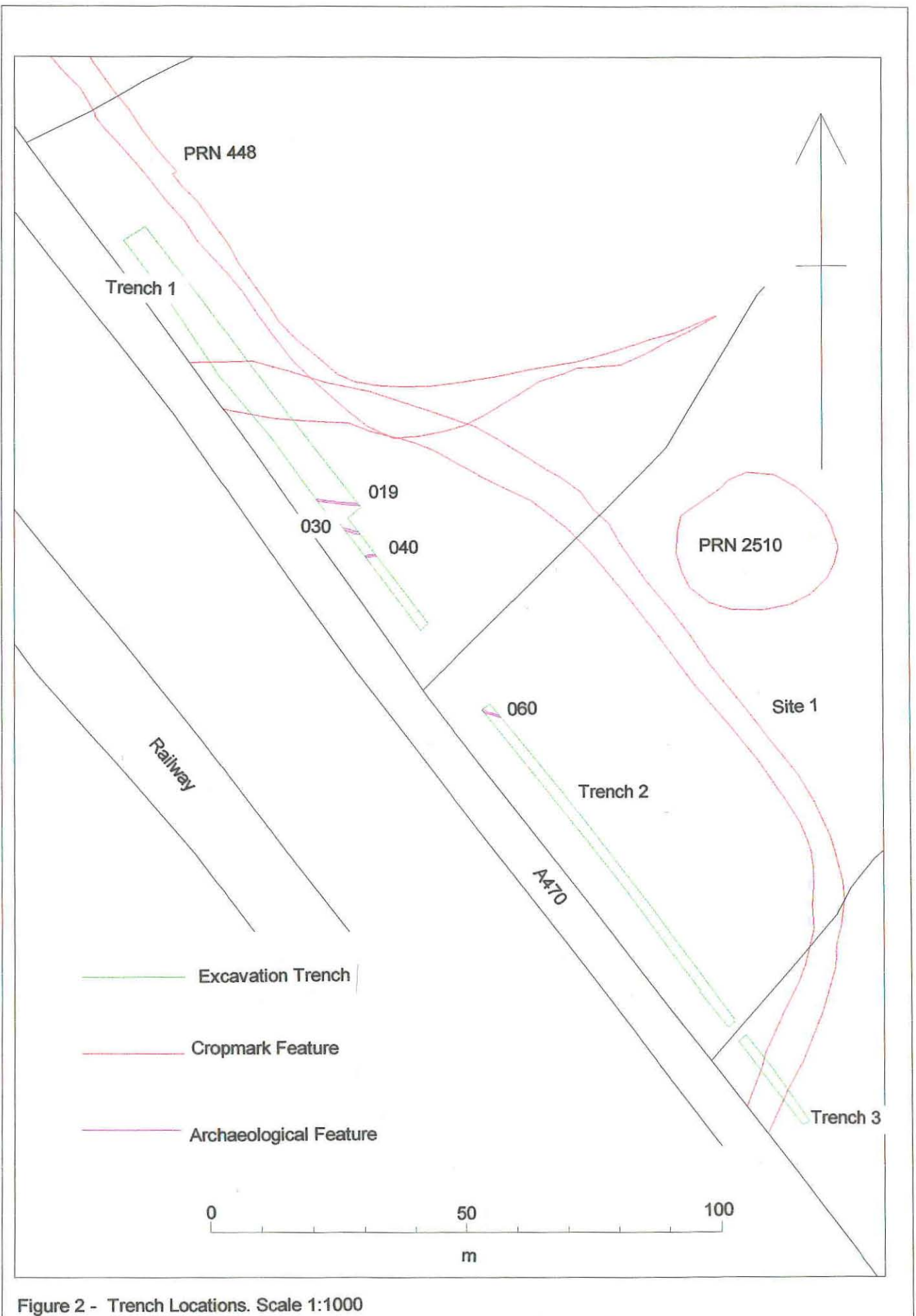


Figure 2 - Trench Locations. Scale 1:1000

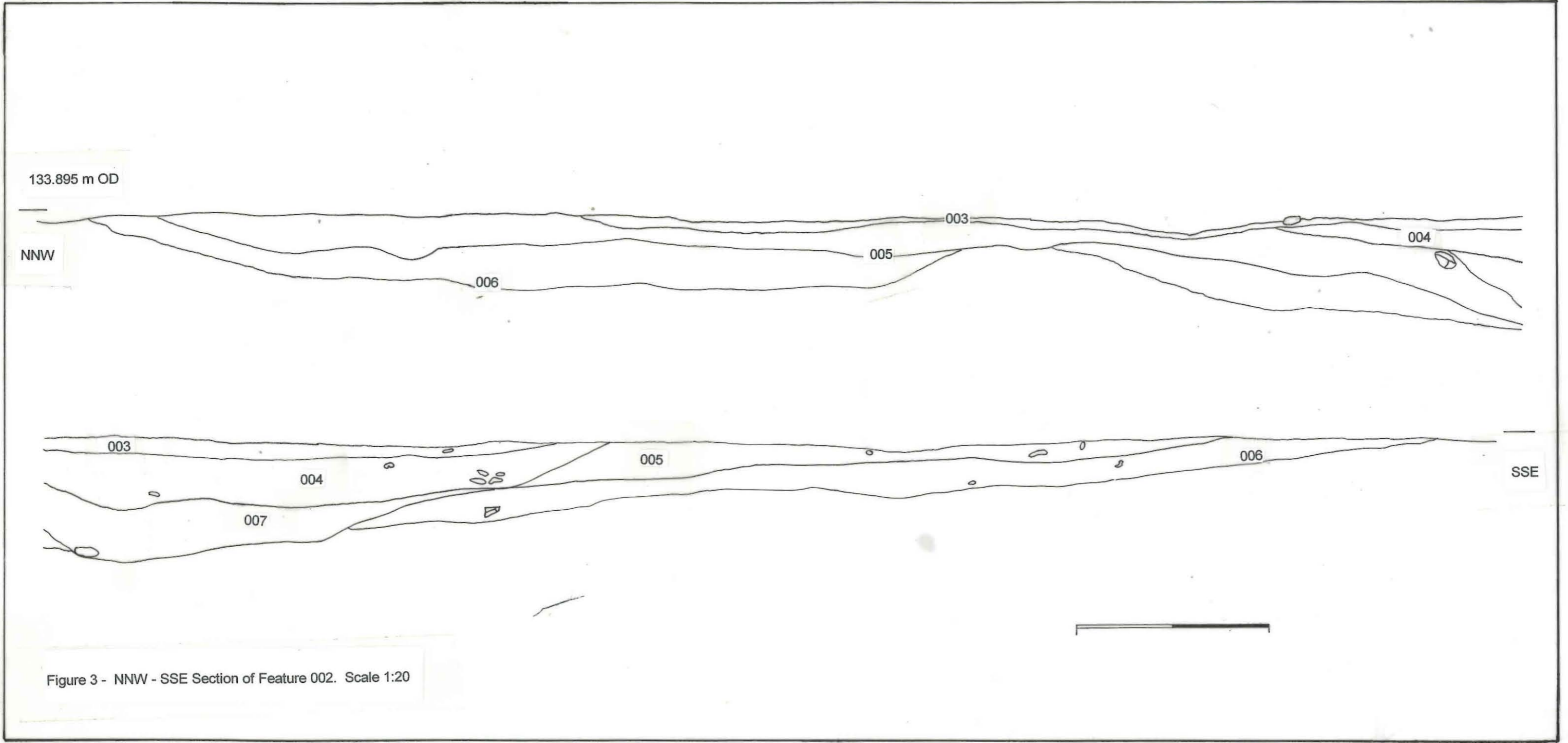


Figure 3 - NNW - SSE Section of Feature 002. Scale 1:20

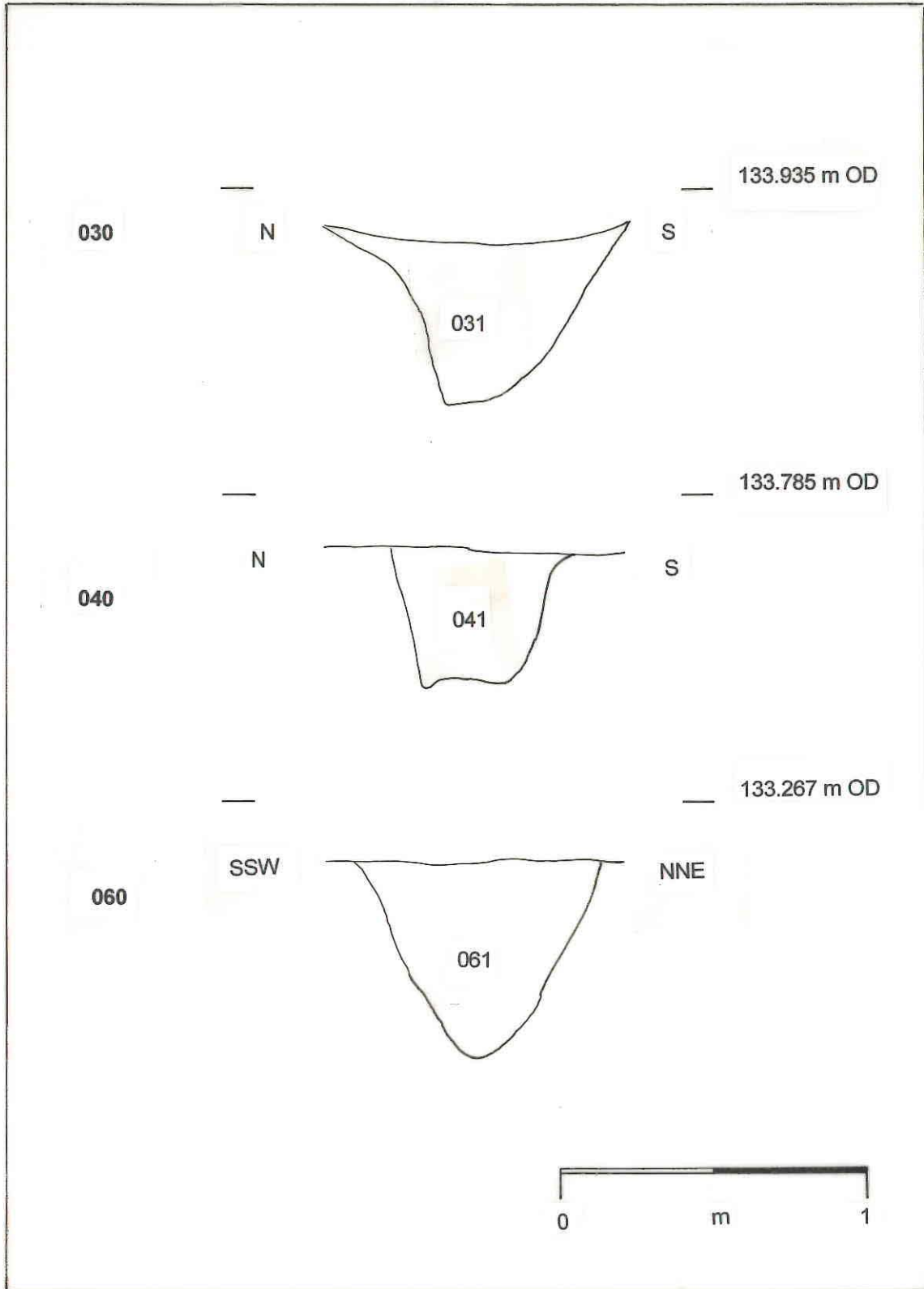


Figure 4 - Sections through Features 030, 040, 060. Scale 1:20

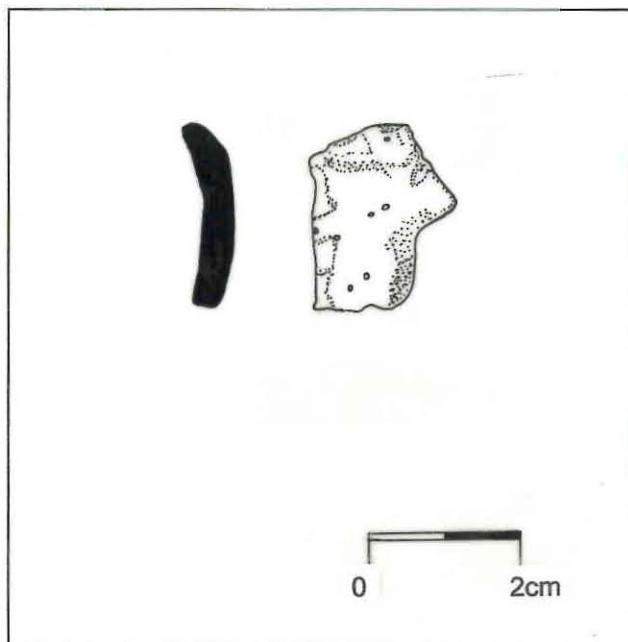


Figure 5 - Sherd of Neolithic Pottery From Evaluation. Scale 1:1



Plate 1 - Feature 002 from SSE

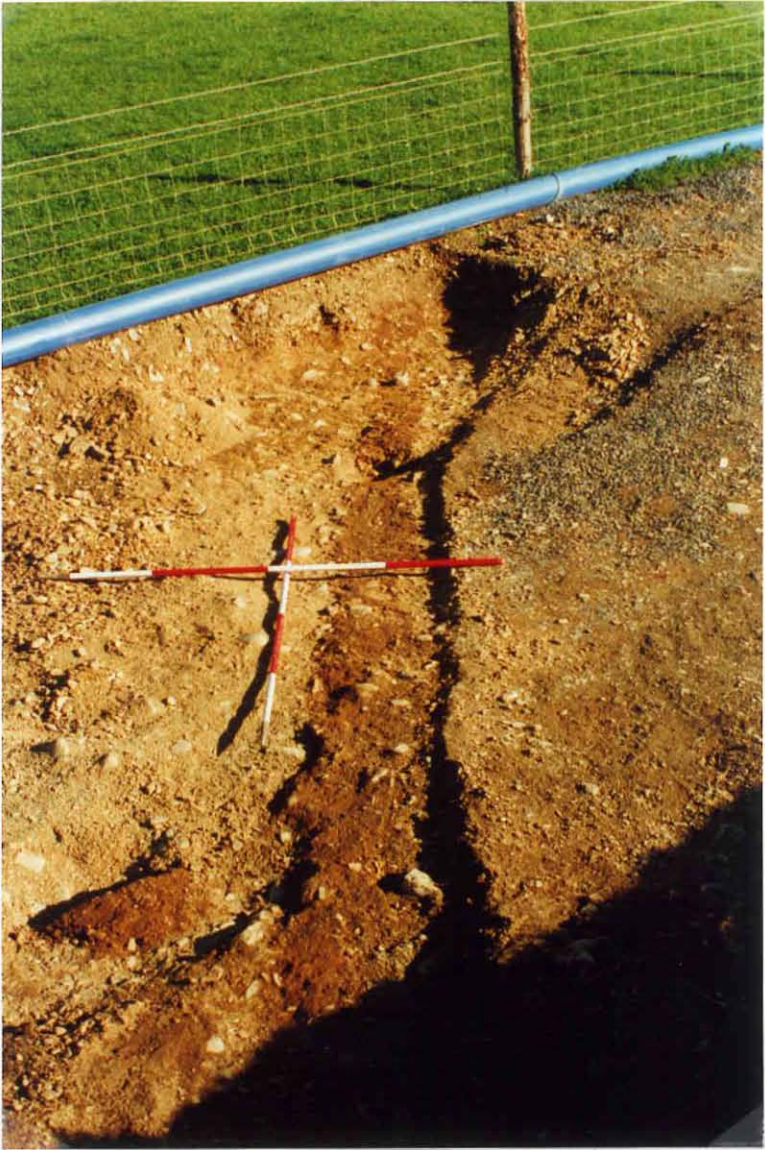


Plate 2- Feature 019 from W



Plate 3 - Feature 030



Plate 4 - Feature 040



Plate 5 - Features 030 and 040

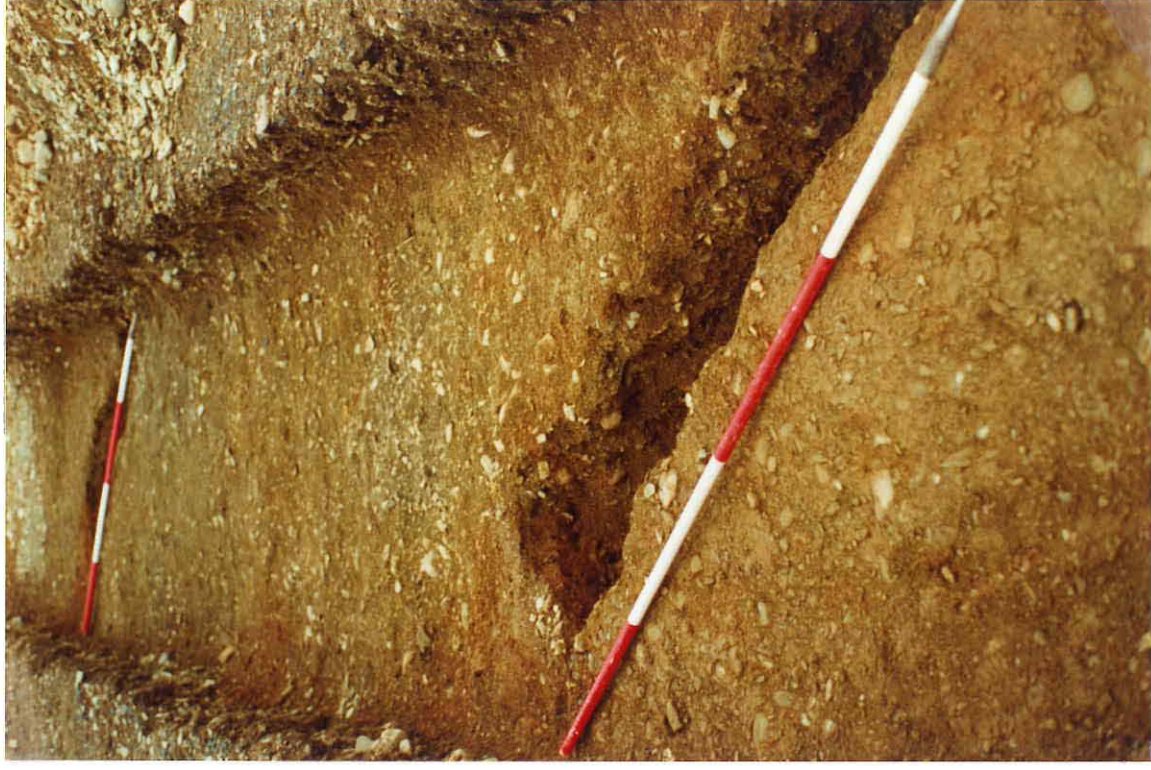


Plate 6 - Feature 060



Plate 7 - Trench 2 from NNW



Plate 8- Trench 3 from NNW