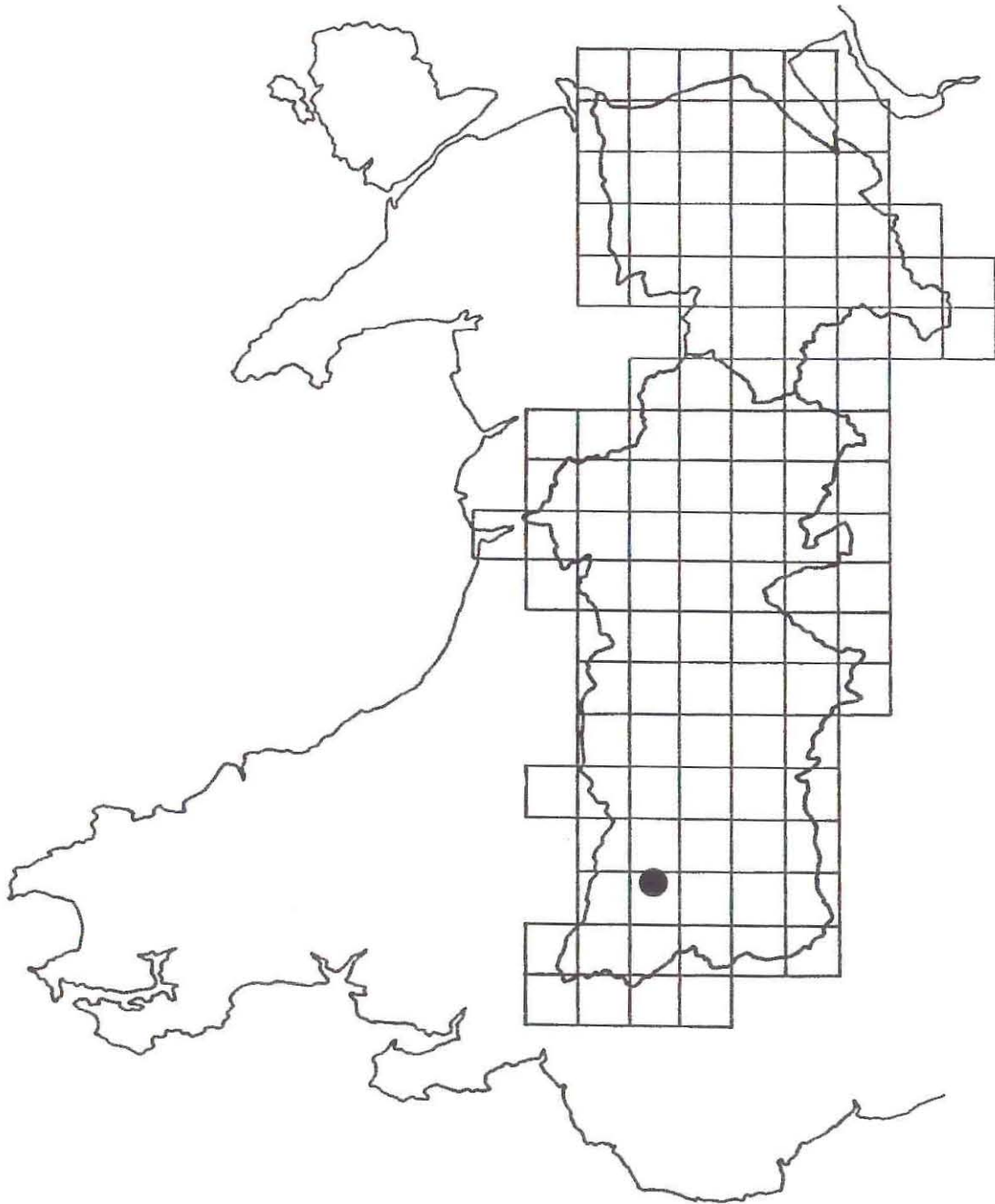


Castell-du, Sennybridge, Powys
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



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by **R. HANKINSON**

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Report prepared for Mr R. Forsyth

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 At the beginning of June 1995 the Contracting Section of the Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust (hereafter CPAT) was asked by Mr R. Forsyth of Carn-y-Castell, Sennybridge to provide a quotation for an archaeological evaluation (centred at SN 9197 2841), in advance of the proposed construction of a bungalow at Castle Farm, Sennybridge, Powys.
- 1.2 The Archaeological evaluation was requested by Cadw:Welsh Historic Monuments following an application for Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC), since part of the proposed development lies within the scheduled area of Castell-du (SAM B126; PRN 572). The evaluation was intended to assess the implications of the proposed development on the archaeological resource.
- 1.3 The CPAT quotation was accepted in July 1995 and the evaluation was carried out at the end of July/beginning of August 1995, with the report prepared immediately afterwards.

2 Archaeological Background

- 2.1 The Scheduled Ancient Monument of Castell-du stands on a small local summit overlooking the village of Sennybridge (Fig. 1), which is located at the confluence of the Usk and Senni rivers. The extant structural remains consist of a ruinous length of walling, with part of a round tower on its southern side. Built into the remains are two civil defence bunkers dating to August 1940, as evidenced by graffiti inscribed into concrete during their construction.
- 2.2 The area immediately to the north of the scheduled area was subjected to geophysical survey and archaeological excavation in 1991. The results of the geophysical survey had suggested the presence of a number of anomalies, thought to have been associated with the defences of the castle. Two of the areas in which anomalies were identified were then subjected to trial excavations by CPAT. No archaeological features were discovered in either of the trial trenches.

3 The Evaluation (Figs 2 and 3)

- 3.1 In accordance with the evaluation brief prepared by Cadw, a single trial trench was excavated by machine across a break in slope supposedly associated with the monument. The trench, which measured 5.5m long by 1.5m wide, was then cleaned by hand and recorded in line with the requirements of the brief. Levels were related to a temporary bench mark located on a concrete path indicated on Fig. 2.
- 3.2 The machine removed a layer of topsoil (1), varying in thickness from 0.2m to 0.3m. Underlying the topsoil was a layer (2), c. 0.1m thick, of mixed reddish sandy clay and topsoil which was seen to contain occasional small fragments of modern pottery and may well have been the result of ploughing, or other, similar, agricultural activity. This lay directly on the surface of the natural subsoil and was also removed by machine.

- 3.3 No archaeological features were revealed by cleaning the surface of the natural subsoil; removal of the upper 0.1m-0.2m of the subsoil confirmed that no archaeological features were to be found in the area encompassed by the evaluation trench.
- 3.4 The landowner informed that the other noticeable break in slope within the site boundary had been created by recent topsoil dumping; a small hand-dug test confirmed this.

4 Conclusions

- 4.1 The results of the evaluation provided no evidence for surviving remains of the castle, or any other associated features within the area examined. The only archaeological evidence consisted of sherds of modern pottery within Layer 2, which would appear to be a modern cultivation deposit.
- 4.2 It would appear that the other noticeable break in slope within the site boundary is a result of recent topsoil dumping.

Appendix 1

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT SENNYBRIDGE CASTLE, POWYS

SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION BY CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

1 Introduction

1.1 The proposed development of a block of land within the scheduled area of Sennybridge castle and involves the construction of a bungalow on the site.

1.2 This area lies within area of the scheduled monument and is therefore dependant on the granting of Scheduled monument consent (SMC).

1.3 Cadw: Welsh historic monuments, in their capacity as archaeological curators for the Secretary of State for Wales, have determined that a field evaluation is necessary to assess the implications of the proposed development on the archaeological resource. Accordingly a brief (ref: CAM/1/2/1580/1) has been prepared by Cadw which describes the scheme of archaeological works required.

2 Objectives

2.1 The objectives of the evaluation are:

2.1.1 to reveal by an evaluation trench 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 evaluation trenches;

2.1.3 to prepare a report outlining the results of the field evaluation and incorporating sufficient information on the archaeological resource for a reasonable planning decision to be taken regarding the archaeological provision for the area affected by the proposed development;

2.1.4 to identify and recommendations options for the management of the archaeological resource, including any further provision for that resource where it is considered necessary.

3 Methods

3.1 The evaluation will take the form of a single trench, 5m long by 1.5m wide. Where required this will be taken to a maximum depth of 1.2m below the existing ground surface. Consultation with the client and the curator will be necessary before this depth is exceeded.

3.2 The evaluation will be undertaken using standard evaluation procedures:

3.2.1 removal of modern overburden by machine;

3.2.2 evaluation of the archaeological deposits by hand trowelling to establish their importance and integrity, but avoiding any unnecessary disturbance of the deposits. All features encountered will be examined as fully as appropriate to fulfil the requirements of the evaluation and within

the constraints imposed by time and safety considerations.

3.2.3 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 Evaluation Brief), and photographed in monochrome and colour. All drawn records will be related to control points depicted on modern maps.

3.2.4 all archaeological artefacts and environmental samples 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.

3.3 Following the on-site work an illustrated and bound report will be prepared according to the principles laid out in the Evaluation Brief. This will be in A4 format and contain conventional sections on: Site location, Topography and Geology; Historic Background; Excavation; Conclusions and Recommendations and References, together with appropriate appendices on archives and finds.

3.4 The site archive will be prepared to specifications laid out in Appendix 3 in the Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage, 1991).

4 Resources and Programming

4.1 The evaluation will be undertaken by a small team of two skilled archaeologists under the direct supervision of an experienced field archaeologist, who will also be responsible for undertaking the desk-based assessment. 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 will be completed by the same field archaeologist who conducted the evaluation.

4.3 It is anticipated that the assessment and evaluation will take no more than three days 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. 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
14th June 1995

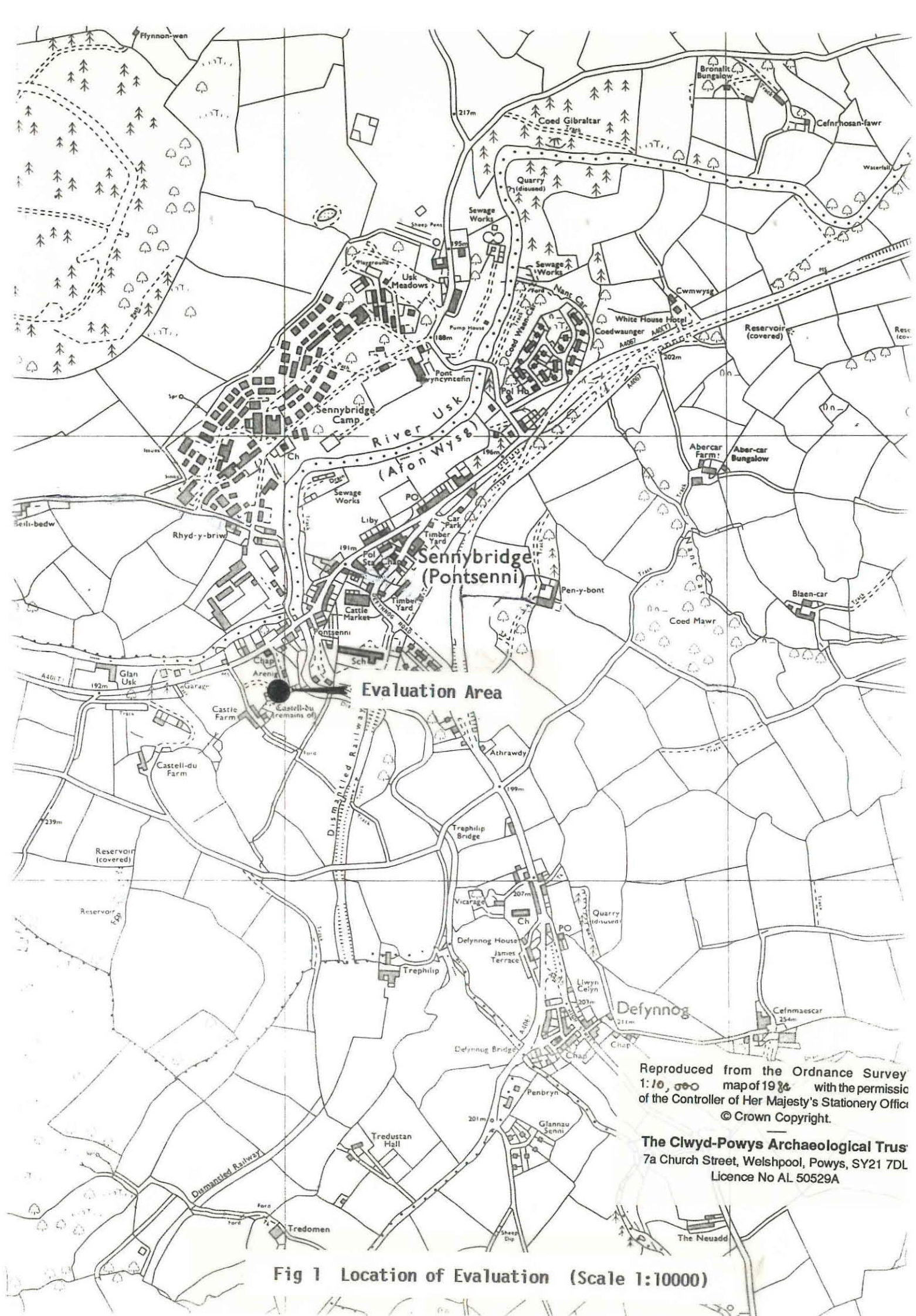


Fig 1 Location of Evaluation (Scale 1:10000)

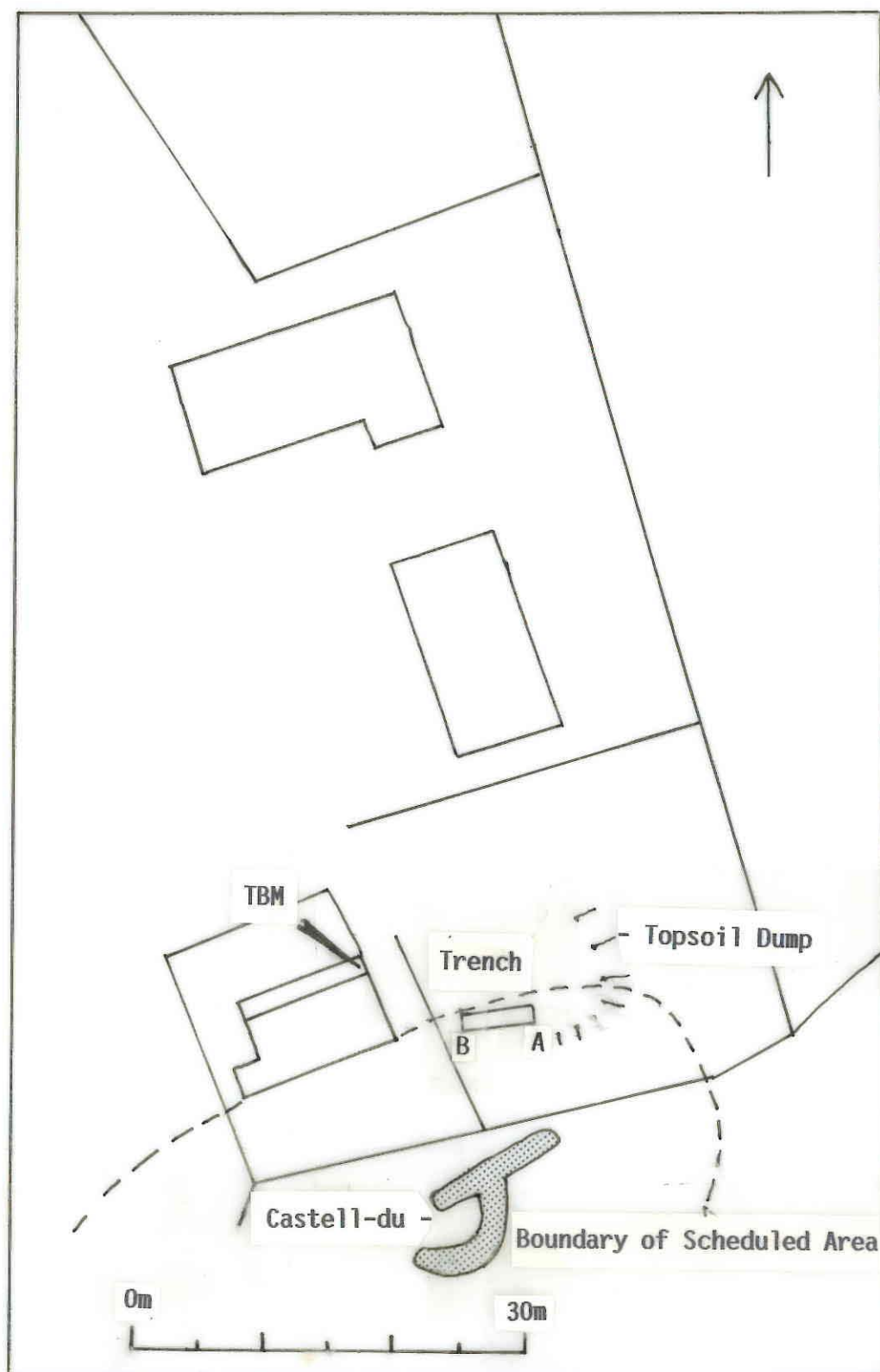
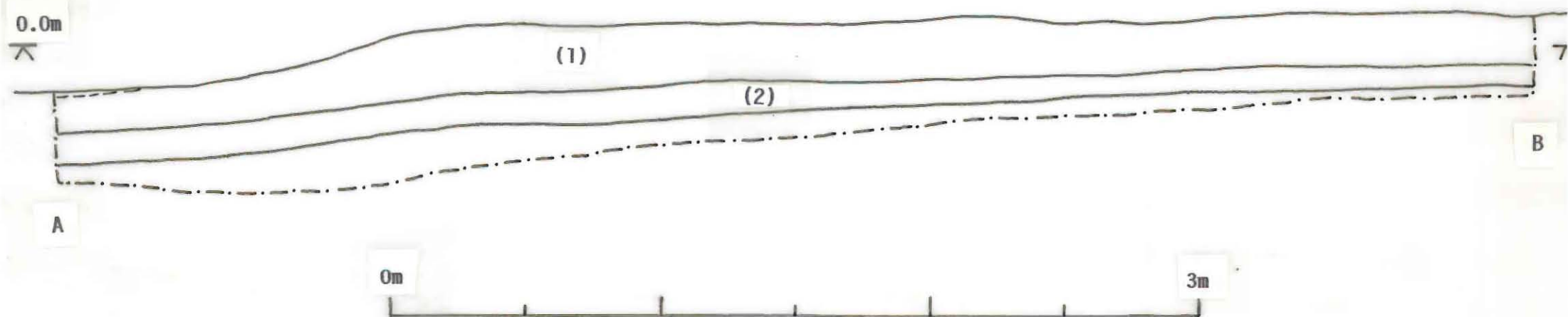


Fig 2 Site Plan (Scale 1:500)



Section line at level of Temporary Bench Mark (TBM), indicated on Fig 2.

Fig 3 Section A-B of Evaluation Trench (Scale 1:20)