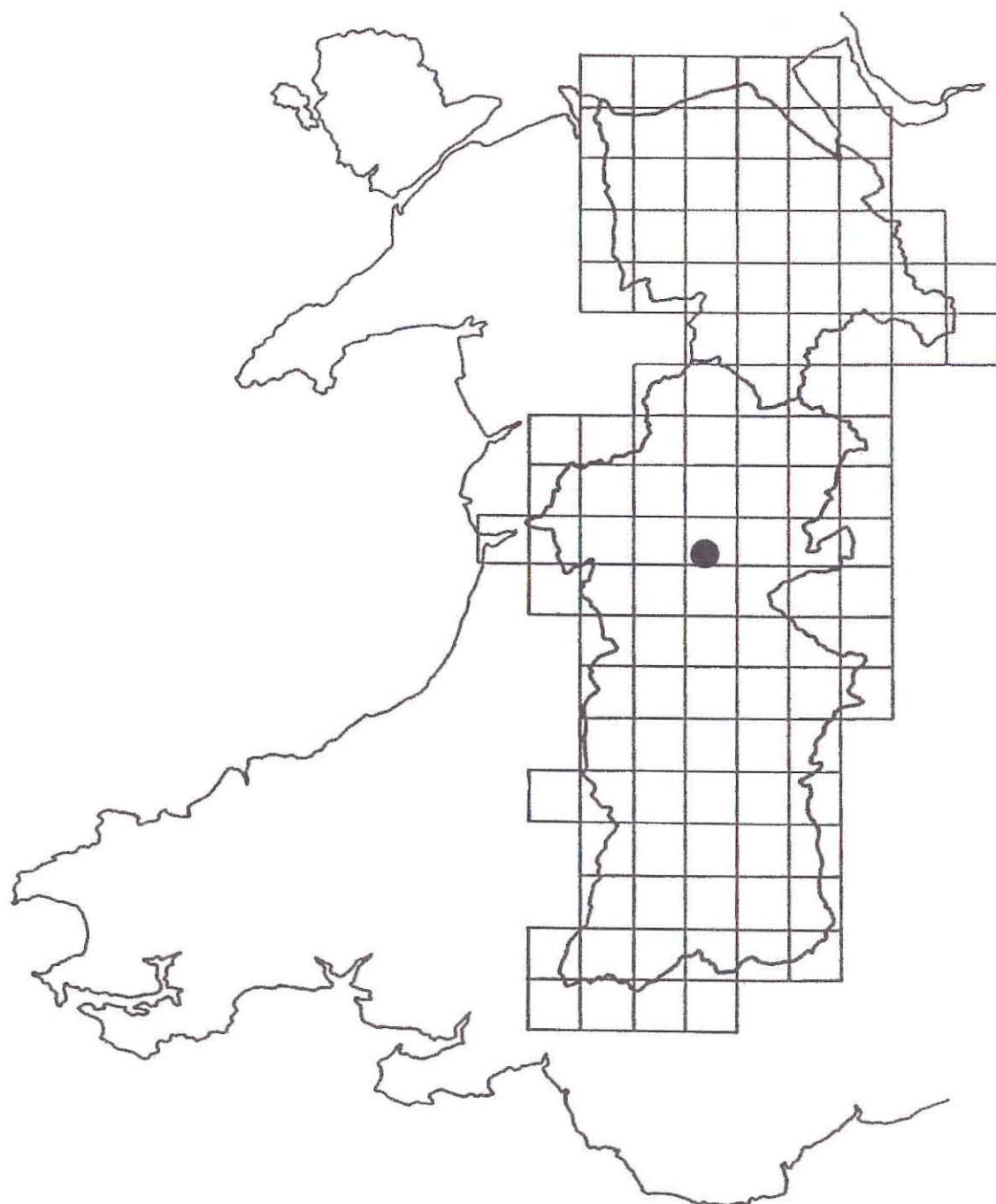


THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

*Hafod, Carno Road, Caersws, Powys*

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION



CPAT Report No 144

*Hafod, Carno Road, Caersws, Powys*  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

by **W.G. Owen**  
June 1995

Report prepared for Lieutenant Commander M. Cheshire

**The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust**

7a Church Street Welshpool Powys SY21 7DL  
tel (01938) 553670, fax 552179

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## EXCAVATIONS AT HAFOD, CARNO ROAD, CAERSWS

### 1 Introduction

1.1 The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (Contracts Section), henceforth referred to as CPAT Contracts, was requested, in May 1995, by Lieutenant Commander M. Cheshire of HMS Victory, HM Naval Base, Portsmouth, to submit a quotation for undertaking an archaeological excavation at Hafod, Carno Road, Caersws, Powys.

1.2 Because the house was located within the scheduled area of Caersws Roman Fort (Mg 1), this excavation was necessary as a condition of Scheduled Monuments Consent being granted by CADW/Welsh Historic Monuments to Lieutenant Commander Cheshire for the construction of an extension to the rear of the house (Fig 1).

1.3 The house is located to the north-east of the outer fort defences (NGR SO 0299 9209), but it was thought quite possible that it would be within the area of the annexe to the fort (Jones 1993). It could, therefore, be anticipated that Roman features would be revealed within the excavation area.

1.4 The quoted price for the work was accepted and the excavation and recording work was subsequently carried out on 30th and 31st May, 1995 in accordance, as far as was possible, with the specification prepared by CADW/Welsh Historic Monuments.

### 2 The Excavation(Fig 2)

2.1 Trench A (3.00m x 1.00m x 1.00m). It was not possible to excavate this trench to the specified dimensions because of the presence, at a depth of 0.30m within the trench, of an active water mains supply pipe to both Hafod and to Meini Cochion further to the north-east. Excavation was, therefore, limited to the areas defined on Fig 2. Sections exposed showed no recognisable archaeological features and stratification was limited to a friable, grey soil extending to a maximum depth of 0.40m. Five mortaria sherds were recovered from this layer but these finds could not be regarded as significant as the layer also contained late post-medieval and recent material within it. Below this, a stiff, yellowish-grey, clay with some manganese deposition extended to the limit of excavation at 1.00m. This contained no visible archaeological features or stratification within it. Excavations carried out elsewhere in Caersws, notably within the fort interior, have demonstrated, however, that clay layers were used to raise ground levels and to back-fill ditches during the mid-second century (Daniels, Jones and Putnam 1970; Jones 1993). In this trench, even though the clay appeared to be natural, the possibility that it could represent a deep levelling or ditch back-filling phase cannot, therefore, be dismissed.

2.1.1 An area 0.60m long x 0.40m wide at the north-west corner of this trench was excavated to a depth of 0.50m but was subsequently abandoned because of the presence of a soak-away pipe extending along the trench at this depth. Soil layers exposed corresponded to those found elsewhere in the trench.

2.2 Trench B (1.25m x 1.00m x 1.00m). This trench showed a similar sequence of stratification to Trench A. No archaeological features were exposed and finds



were limited to a few late post-medieval sherds recovered from a superficial level in the soil.

**2.3 Trenches C and D** (1.00m x 0.50m x 1.00m each). Neither of these two trenches revealed any features of archaeological significance and the soil profiles were consistent with that of undisturbed grassland. The very few finds recovered were exclusively of post-medieval date.

### **3 Conclusions**

**3.1** The presence of several runs of drainage pipes in the area required that the locations of trenches be modified slightly (Trenches C and D). In the case of Trenches A and B, the limitations imposed by the presence of the water-main pipe also severely curtailed the area that could be excavated to the specified dimensions. Nevertheless, sufficient was done to allow any archaeological features in the area to be recognised.

**3.2** No archaeological features were noted in any of the areas excavated. Mortaria sherds recovered from Trench B were unassociated finds and the presence of late post-medieval material within the same soil layer suggests disturbance of the area during this or later periods.

**3.3** Sections exposed in Trenches C and D suggested that this area was grassland with no evidence of previous cultivation to any depth.

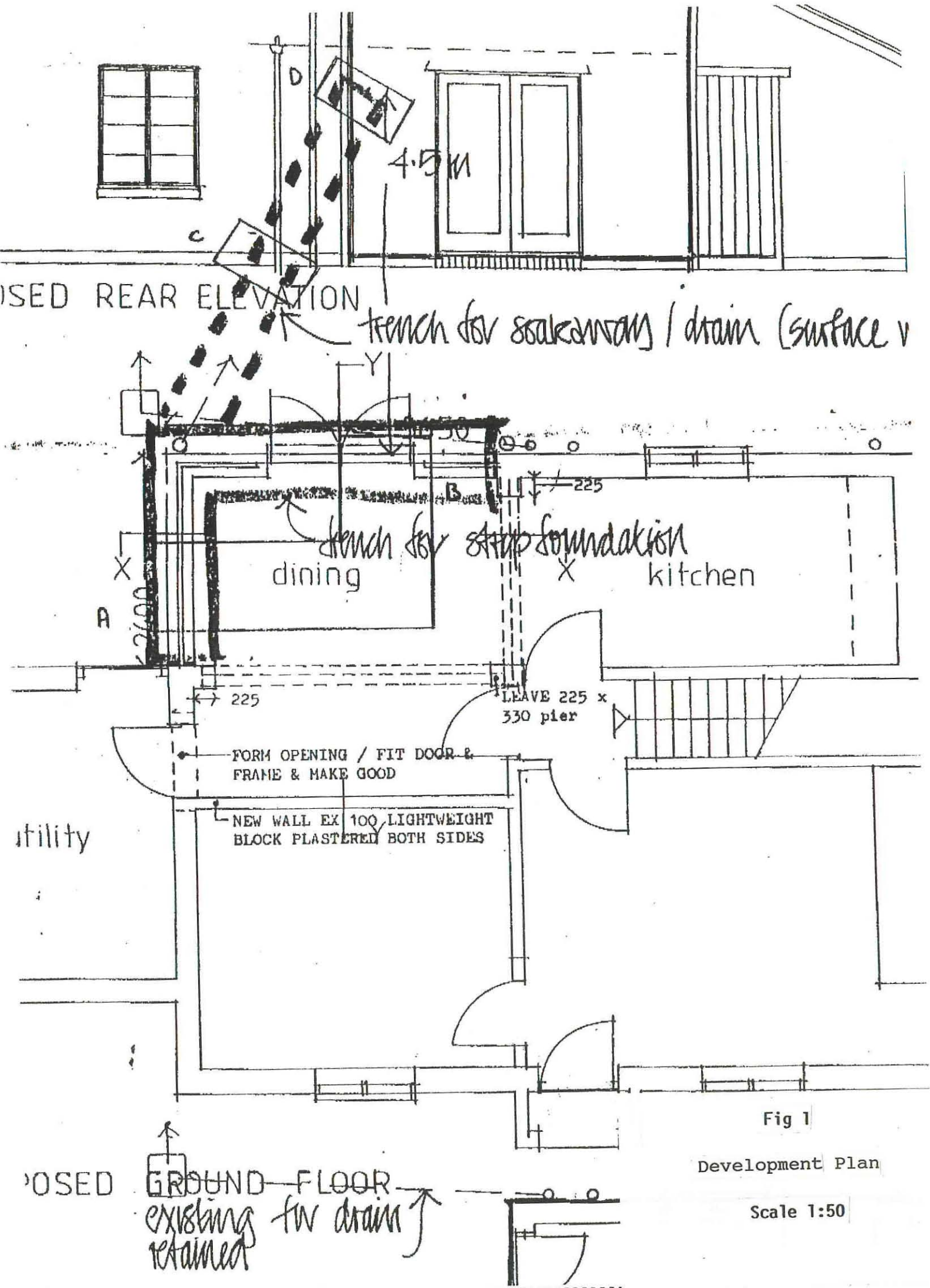
### **4 Acknowledgements**

CPAT Contracts would like to acknowledge the help given by Mr Evans of Meini Cochion, Caersws during the course of the excavation.

### **5 References**

Daniels, C.M., Jones, G.D.B., and Putnam, W.G., 1970. Excavations at Caersws, 1968, Montgomeryshire Collections 61, 37-42

Jones, N.W., 1993 Caersws Roman Fort and Vicus, Montgomeryshire, Powys, 1984-92, Montgomeryshire Collections 81, 15-96.



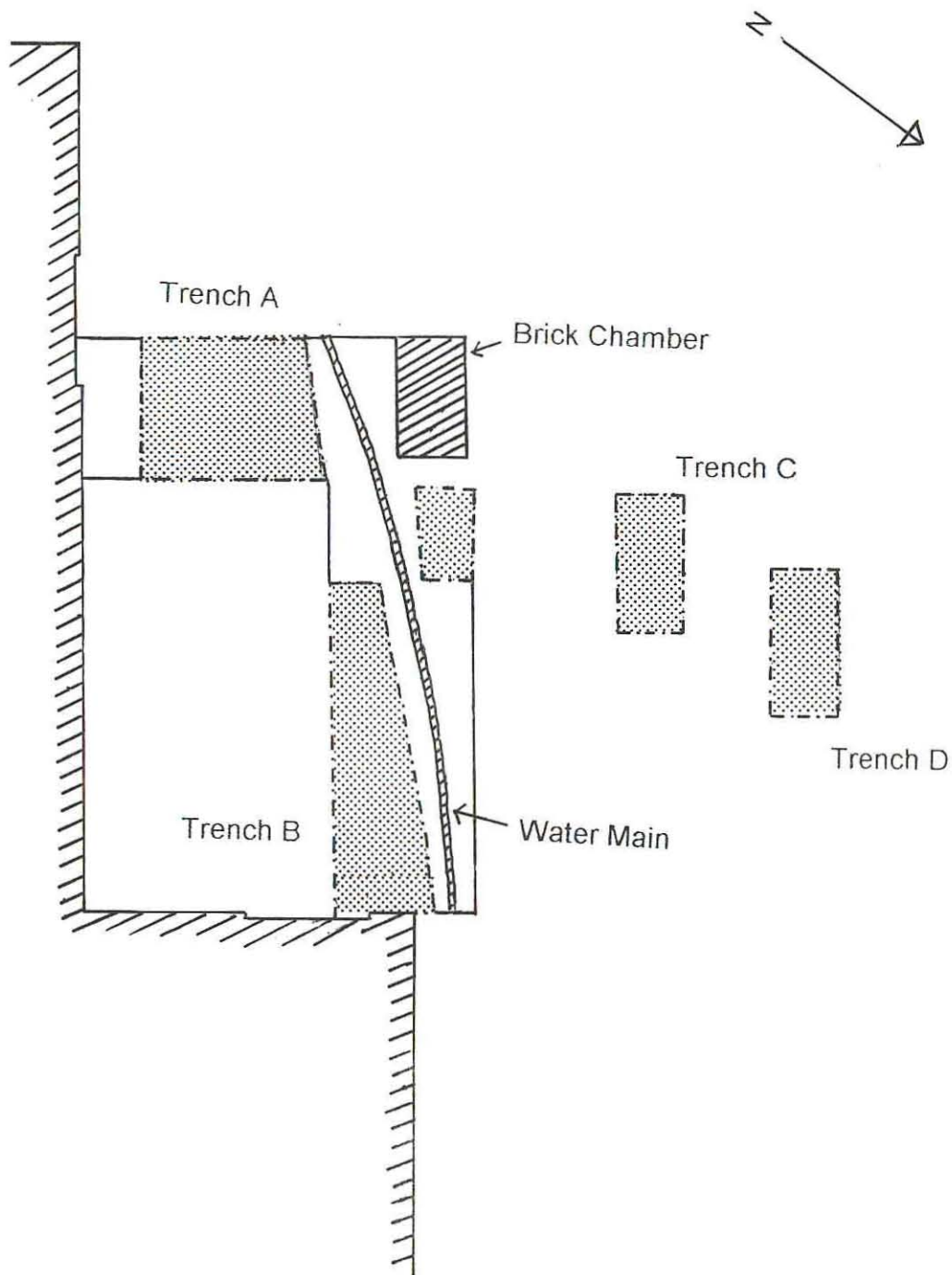


Fig 1

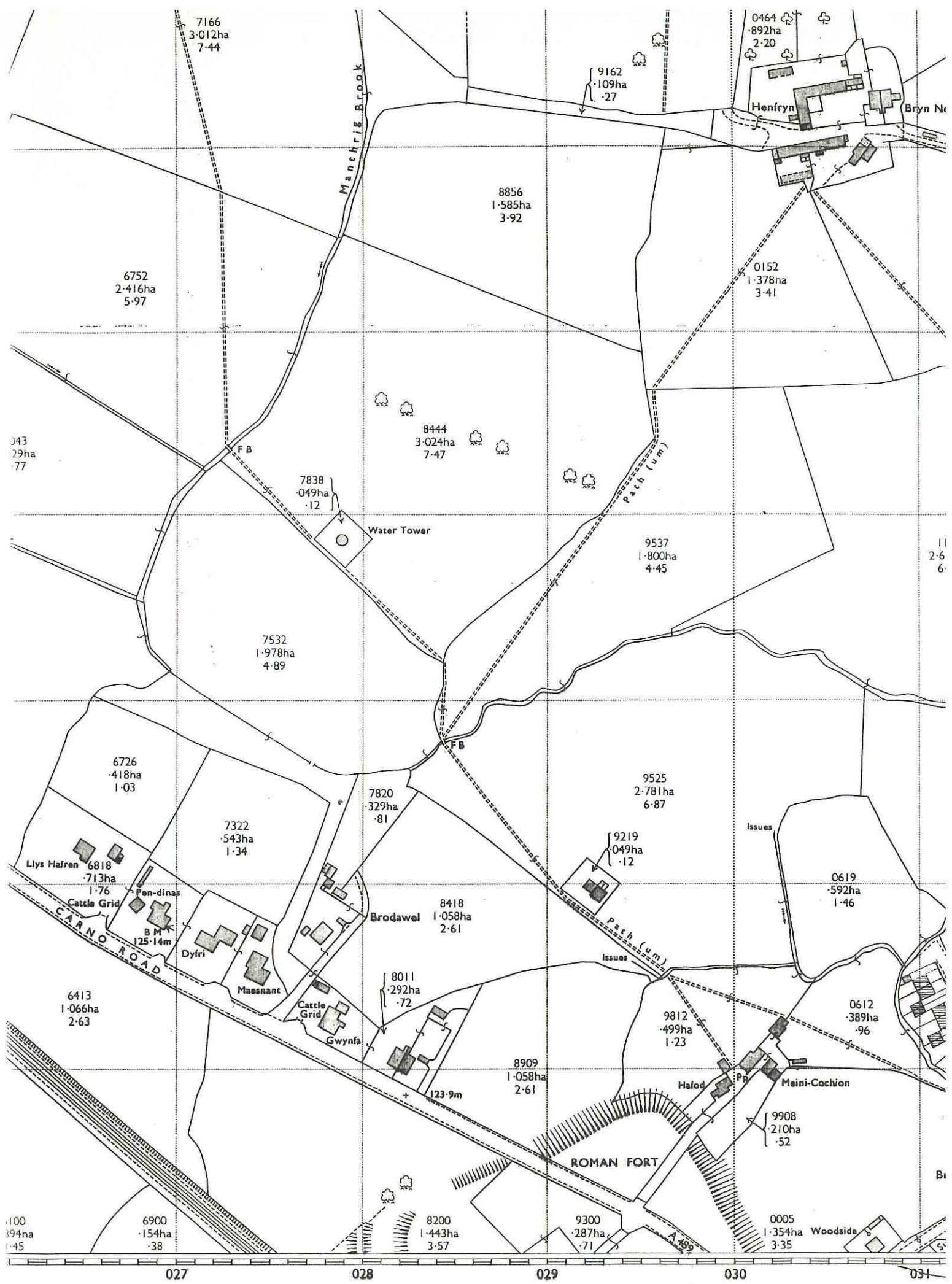
Site Plan

Excavated Areas



Scale 1: 50





MONTGOMERY CO CONST

SO 0291-0391

CONVERSION SCALES

HECTARES-ACRES