

THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Llanymynech Golf Clubhouse

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

CPAT Report No 241

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W.G.Owen
September 1997

Report for Munro Associates.

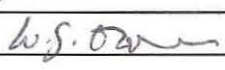
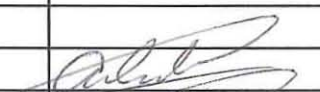

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CPAT Report Record

Report and status

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In November 1996, The Contracts Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (henceforth CPAT) was requested by Munro Associates acting on behalf of their client Llanymynech Golf Club, to submit a specification and quotation for undertaking an archaeological evaluation work in advance of proposed alterations and extensions to the Clubhouse. The specification would be based on recommendations made by Cadw/Welsh Historic Monuments in order that the nature and extent of survival of any archaeological remains could be assessed within the area of the proposed alterations. The results of the evaluation would form a basis for a consideration by the Secretary of State of the SMC application by the Golf Club.
- 1.2 The specification submitted by CPAT was subsequently given approval and a quotation given for carrying out the work which was agreed to by Munro Associates. Subsequent to the evaluation work which was carried out on June 9th 1997, Munro Associates enquired whether it would be possible to re-evaluate the original quotation to reflect the actual archaeological input, a request to which CPAT agreed.

2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY (Fig 1)

- 2.1 The Clubhouse is located on the summit of a natural hillock at NGR SJ 2655 2199 and at an altitude of 191mOD on Llanymynech Hill. Geologically, this promontary marks the southernmost point of an arc of Lower Carboniferous Limestone which extends south from the North Wales coast at Prestatyn, Flintshire (Smith & George 1961) and outcrops of this formation are commonly visible on the hill.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The natural defensive attributes of Llanymynech Hill with its extremely steep and in places precipitous slopes to the south, east and west overlooking the Tanat valley and the Shropshire Plain explain to a very large extent its use as the site of an Iron Age hillfort which enclosed an area of 57ha making it one of the largest in England and Wales.
- 3.2 Archaeological work in the immediate vicinity of the Clubhouse has, to date, been fairly limited in extent. In April 1995, evaluation work was carried out in advance of the construction of a new machinery store and greenkeeper's office some 30m to the north of the clubhouse at its closest point. This concluded that although no structural features of archaeological significance were uncovered, artefacts dating to the Iron Age were recovered from a soil layer (Thomas 1995, context 6) which was interpreted as a possible old ground surface dating to this period. Further excavation in 1996 immediately to the east, preceding and during the construction of the new machinery store, confirmed that the old ground surface continued for a distance of at least 19m eastwards. Pits and possible ard marks found in Stanton Pits A, B and C occurred at the interface of this layer and the natural clay below it (Owen 1997).
- 3.3 The 1996 excavations also uncovered what remained of a juvenile extended inhumation. Radiocarbon dating indicated that this inhumation belonged to the earlier Iron Age and that this was consistent with the dating of peat samples recovered from deposits elsewhere within the hillfort in 1991 (Martin 1992).

4 THE EVALUATION (Fig 2)

- 4.1 In accordance with the specification, three trenches were excavated at locations which would be directly affected by the proposed extension work. In each case, the overlying tarmac cover and the stony base material associated with this was removed manually by the ground staff of the Golf Club under the supervision of the writer. Thereafter, each trench was cleaned, photographed and recorded by the writer.

4.2 Trench A (3 x 1m)

- 4.2.1 The basal material underlying the tarmac cover overlay a fairly compact, clean, reddish-brown clayey loam max. 0.24m thick which lay directly on the natural limestone. Finds were recovered only from the stony basal material below the tarmac and were all modern in origin.

4.3 Trench B (3 x 1m; Fig 3)

- 4.3.1 Removal of the tarmac (1) and its stony base exposed a layer of material 0.12m thick consisting of stone, coal fragments, cinders and brick fragments contained in a fairly friable grey clay (2). Below this at the eastern and western ends of the trench, this overlay a thin, lighter grey layer max 0.04m thick (3) which may have represented an old ground surface. No finds were recovered from it. Removal of layers 2 and 3 exposed a feature interpreted as either part of a pit or gully (4) max. 0.30m deep the fill of which (5) consisted of a dark grey, loose, loamy clay containing stone, brick fragments and cinders above a thin layer of mottled grey clayey silt (6). Artifacts recovered from the fill of this pit consisted of iron objects and sherds which were of a late post-medieval or modern origin.

4.4 Trench C (2 x 1m)

- 4.4.1 This trench lacked any stratigraphy as the tarmac rested directly on the natural limestone rock. No finds were recovered from it.

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The sole feature of any archaeological interest was the pit or gully uncovered in Trench B. Artifacts recovered from its fill indicated that it was of a late post-medieval date. It is assumed that this feature relates either to a levelling phase prior to the construction of the original clubhouse or to the farm known to have occupied this location before that time (A. Lewis *pers. comm.*).

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CPAT wishes to thank the staff of Llanymynech Golf Club for their help during the course of the evaluation.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX 1

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26th November 1996

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**SMC APPLICATION: LLANYMYNECH GOLF CLUB (SAM Mg30)
SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT
BY THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST**

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The proposed development at Llanymynech Golf Club involves alterations and extensions to the present club house situated within the above named scheduled ancient monument.
- 1.2 This area lies within the interior of Llanymynech hillfort which is designated as a monument of national importance by the Secretary of State for Wales and appears in the schedule of ancient monuments as Mg30.
- 1.3 The Inspectorate of Cadw:Welsh Historic Monuments in their capacity as archaeological advisers to the Secretary of State for Wales have determined that an Archaeological response is necessary to assess the implications of the proposed development on the archaeological resource. Accordingly an Archaeological Assessment has been requested to provide a clear picture of the nature and extent of survival of any archaeological remains which may be affected.

2 Objectives

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works are:
 - 2.1.1 to record the nature, condition, significance and, where possible, the chronology of any archaeological deposits and/or features revealed within the area of the proposed development during the development works in so far as these aims are possible;
 - 2.1.2 to prepare a report outlining the results of the assessment.

3 Methods

- 3.1 The assessment will comprise the excavation of three trenches as stipulated by Cadw (ref CAM 1/2/1519/6) to the depth of the footings or to the top of archaeological horizons whichever is the shallower.

- 3.2 All archaeological deposits and/or features noted during the Assessment will be sampled by hand and recorded by drawn section and/or photography.
- 3.3 Following the on-site work an illustrated and bound report will be prepared according to the principles laid out in the Brief. This will be in A4 format and contain conventional sections on: Site location, Topography and Geology; Historic Background; Catalogue of sites identified with notes on their condition and significance, Conclusions and Recommendations and References, together with appropriate appendices on archives and finds.
- 3.5 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 watching brief will be undertaken by a skilled and experienced 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 will be completed by the same field archaeologist who conducted the watching brief.
- 4.3 It is anticipated that the assesment will take no more than 4 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 and negotiated 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
26th November 1996

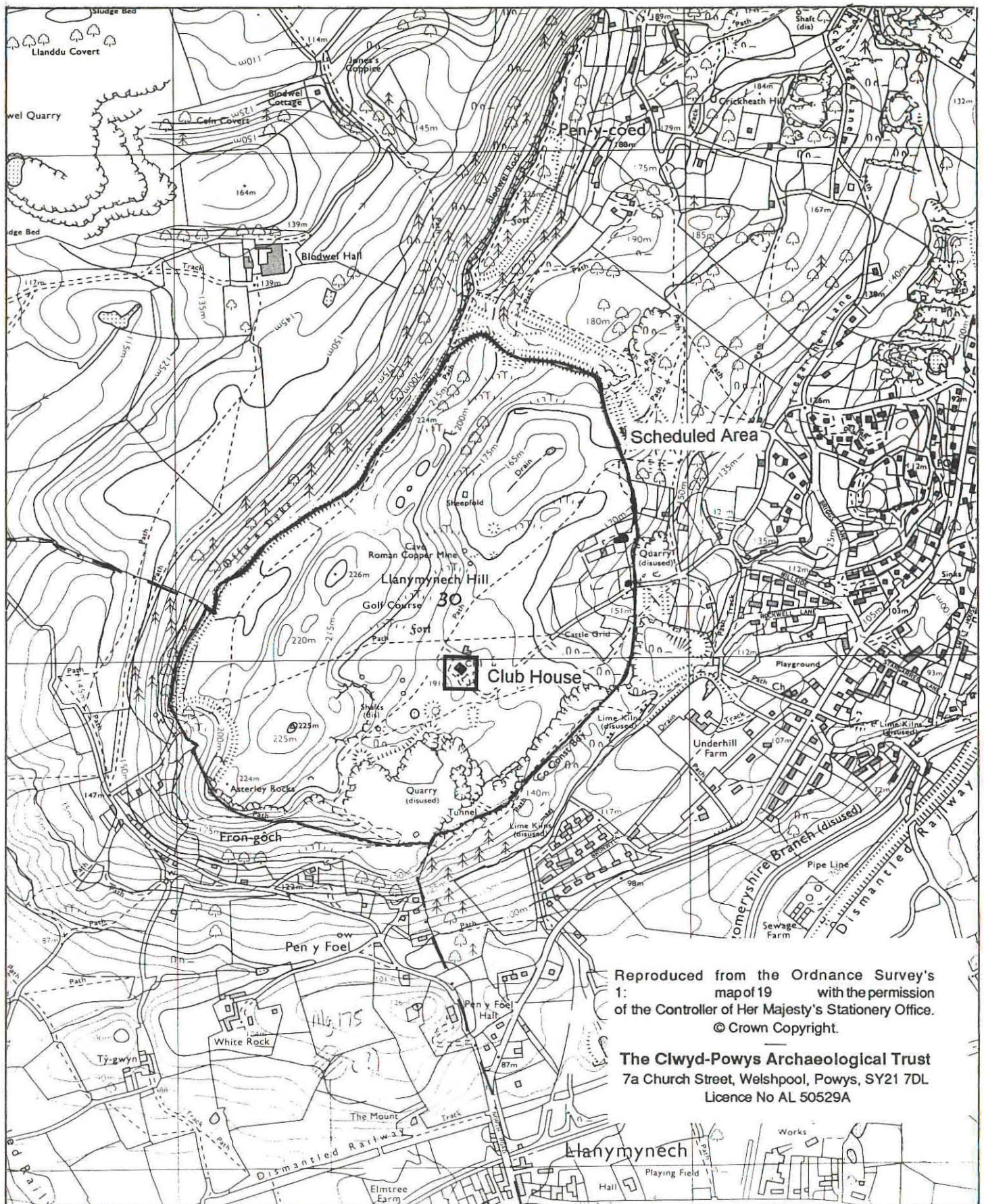


Fig. 1: Site Location, scale 1:25,000

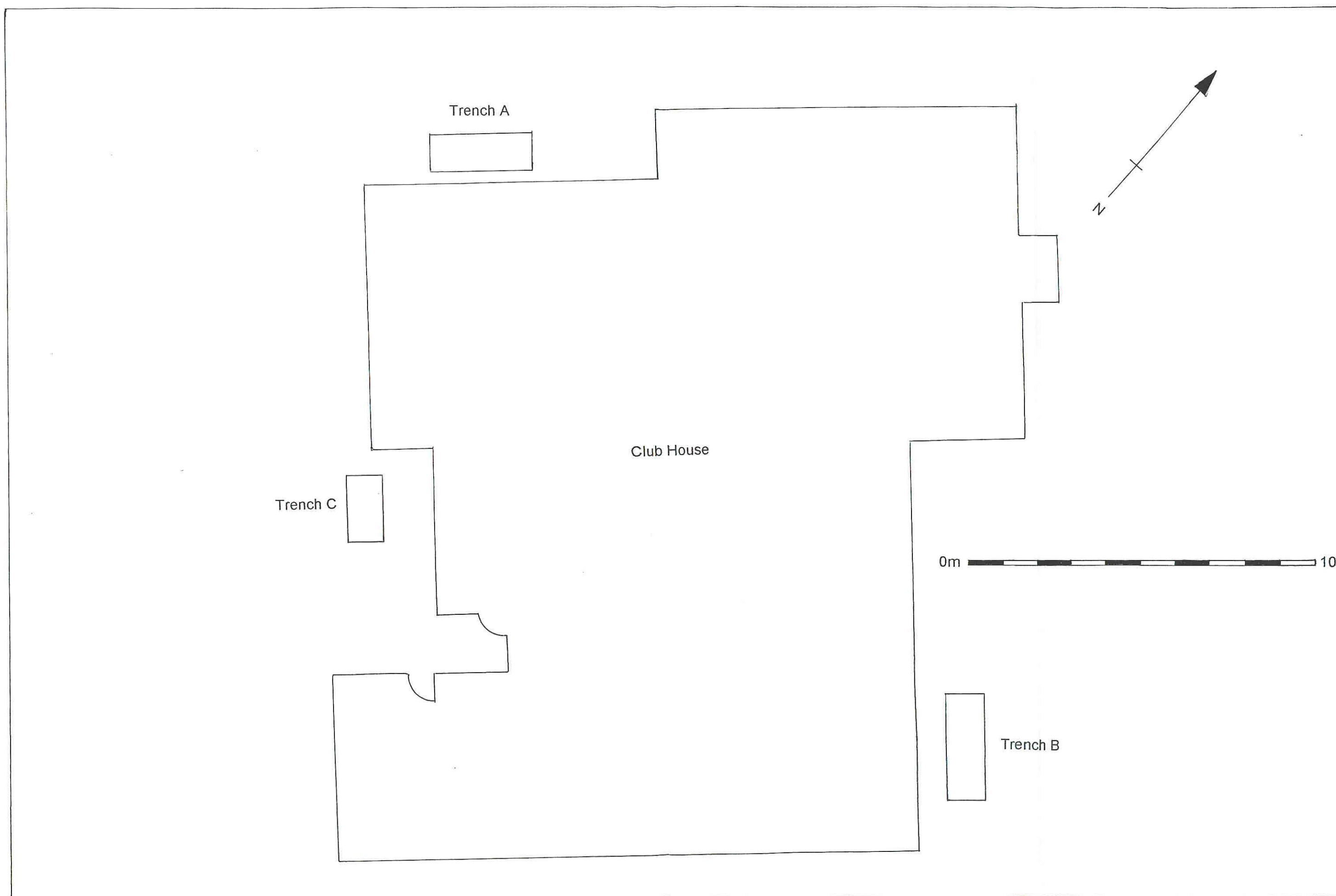


Fig 2 Trench Location Plan, Scale 1:100

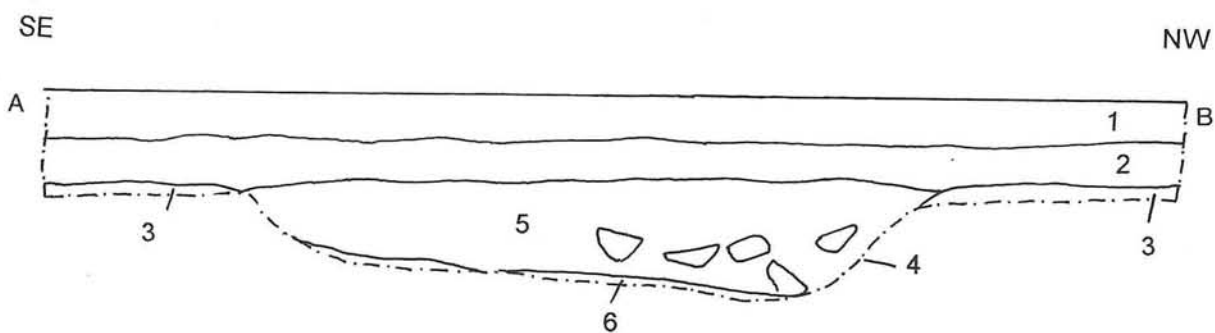
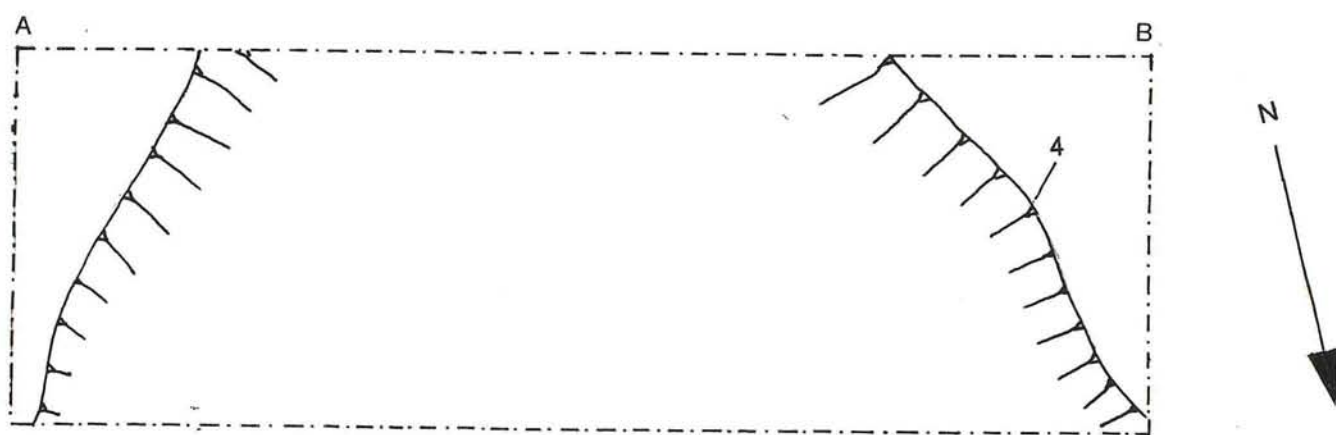


Fig. 3

Trench B plan and sections

Scale 1:20



0  2m

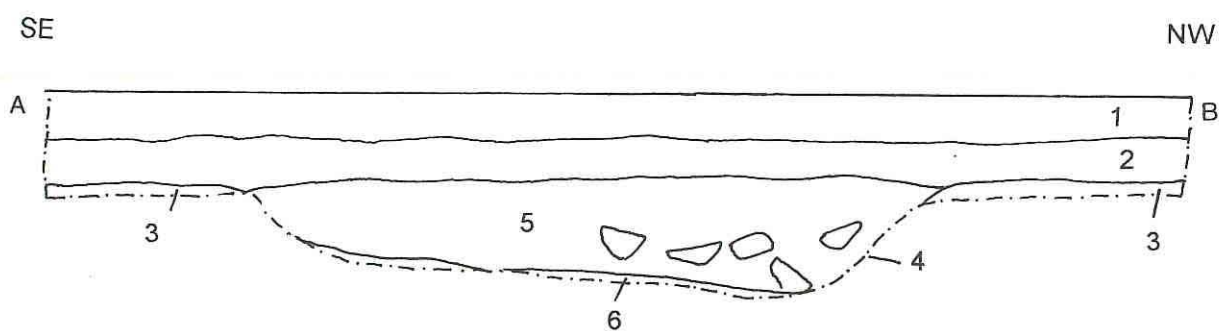


Fig. 3
Trench B plan and sections
Scale 1:20