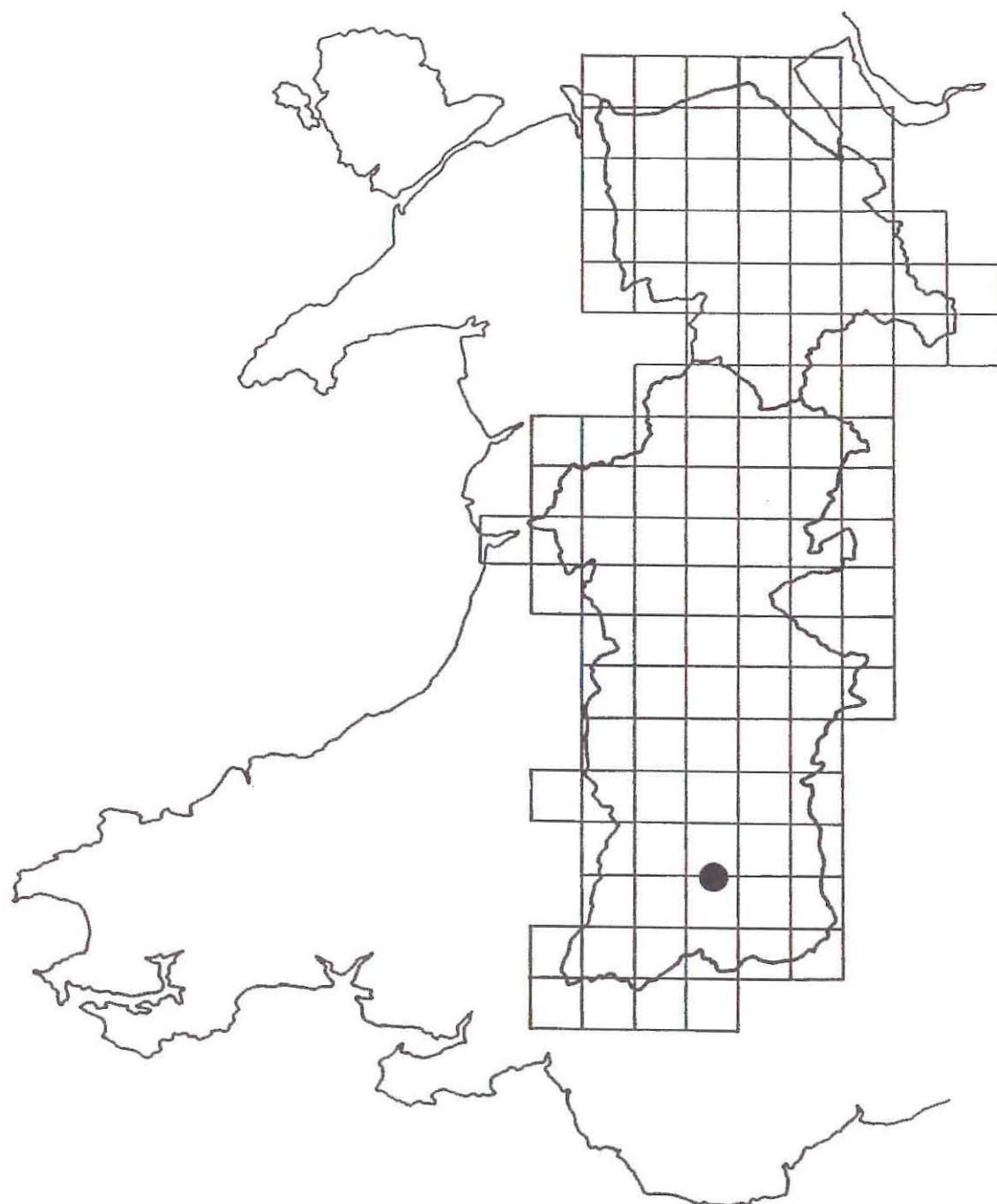


Land Adjacent to Rose Cottage, Llanddew,

Powys

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



Land Adjacent to Rose Cottage, Llanddew,
Powys.
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

by David Thomas
December 1995

Report prepared for Mr and Mrs R. Carpenter

The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust

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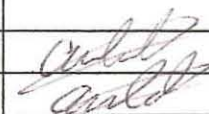
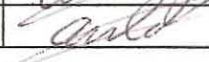
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CPAT Report Record

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CPAT Project Name	DITTO		
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SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust in response to a proposed building development by Mr and Mrs R. Carpenter on land adjacent to Rose Cottage, Llanddew, Powys (Planning ref. B007482). The desk-top assessment revealed that there was a strong possibility of medieval features surviving on the site, but subsequent excavations revealed no evidence for medieval occupation within the areas investigated..

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Contracting Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (hereafter CPAT) was commissioned in November 1995 by Mr and Mrs R. Carpenter of The Old Ford Inn, Llanhamlach, Powys, to undertake a pre-planning archaeological evaluation of the site of a proposed housing development on a plot of land in the village of Llanddew Powys (SO 056503067) (Fig 1). The evaluation was requested by Brecknock Borough Council in response to a planning application (B007482) on the advice of the curatorial section of CPAT acting in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the council.

1.2 A brief for the archaeological evaluation was prepared by the curatorial section of CPAT which recognised the archaeological sensitivity of the site and specified that the evaluation should consist of a desk-top assessment and three excavation trenches (CPAT EVB 151). A written specification for the work was subsequently prepared by CPAT Contracting and submitted to the client and curator for approval (see Appendix 1). The specification was accepted and excavations commenced on December 12th 1995 and were completed in 4 days. This report was prepared immediately afterwards.

2. DESK-TOP ASSESSMENT

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The aim of the desk-top assessment is to provide the archaeological and historical background of the development site. Readily available documentary, cartographic, and photographic sources were studied at the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth, the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales, also in Aberystwyth, the County Sites and Monuments Record, held by the curatorial section of CPAT in Welshpool, and the County Record Office located in Llandrindod Wells. Details of the various sources consulted are listed in the bibliography.

2.1.2 The village has recently been the subject of investigation as part of the Brecknock Borough Settlement Survey (Martin and Walters 1993, 57-60). This survey identified the major earthwork elements of the village and made recommendations about how they could be best preserved. The following account draws heavily on this work.

2.2 The Assessment

2.2.1 The village of Llanddew was important throughout the medieval period and was focused on the church, which probably had its origins as a 'clas' in the late fifth or early sixth century.

2.2.2 Little is known about the settlement which grew up around the church, but between 1175 and 1203 the Bishops Palace was occupied by Giraldus Cambrensis, then the Archdeacon of Brecon. In 1290-1 Edward I granted the village the right to hold weekly markets and in 1485 Henry VII's army is thought to have camped near

Standel Farm, 1km to the south east of the village, on his way to the Battle of Bosworth.

- 2.2.3** The fortunes of the village declined after the medieval period and as a consequence the modern settlement is smaller than its medieval predecessor. Today much of the village is characterised by recent housing, but the church still contains 13th century building elements, and parts of the Bishops Palace survive in a ruinous state to the east of the church. Earthworks survive at various places around the village, including the scheduled remains of a fishpond and building platforms to the south-west of the church, and an extensive area of building platforms and field boundaries to the east of the village, and to the immediate north-east of the development plot. These earthworks were surveyed in detail as part of the Brecknock Borough historical settlements earthwork survey (Jones 1993, 15).
- 2.2.4** There is no direct evidence for medieval occupation of the development plot, but a number of factors suggest that it formed part of the medieval village. Earthworks to the north-east of the plot, which include field boundaries, building platforms and a possible leat feature could continue into the development area, and the proximity of the site to the street frontage, which it is assumed relates to the medieval street, could suggest that elements of house platforms could survive. Associated features such as rubbish or latrine pits may also be present.
- 2.2.5** The earliest map on which the plot is depicted is the tithe map of 1841 (Fig 2) which shows a single building and boundary which the accompanying apportionment document describes as a cottage with garden. The first edition of the Ordnance Survey 25" series, published in 1888 (Fig 3), shows that the building and garden boundary have been demolished and the road is on its present line. Later cartographic evidence shows no subsequent development and the plot was until recently an orchard.

3 EXCAVATIONS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The three evaluation trenches were positioned to assess the nature of the archaeology across the development plot (Fig 5). Trench A was located along the street frontage part of the site, while trench B was partly located to investigate the street frontage but also the building shown on the tithe map of 1841 (see above, para 2.2.5). The location of trench B differed from that shown in the specification because it was felt necessary to establish whether any remains of the building survived. This was agreed with the curator and client prior to excavation. Trench C was sited to determine whether the possible leat feature surveyed in the adjacent field ran into the development plot.

3.1.2 Excavations were carried out over a period of 4 days between the 12th and 15th December 1995 with a staff of two. The site was monitored by Mr Mark Walters of the curatorial section of CPAT on the 14th of December.

3.1.3 Modern topsoil and overburden were removed by machine after which work was continued by hand to assess the nature, preservation and date of the surviving archaeological deposits. Recording was undertaken using standard archaeological methods, as outlined in the specification (Appendix 1) and surveying included use of an EDM with Penmap software. Numbers in brackets in the following descriptions refer to context numbers recorded on site.

3.2 Trench A

3.2.1 The removal of the topsoil (01), which was a dark loamy garden soil between c 0.43m and 0.23 in depth, revealed the red clay subsoil (02) across most of the trench. This contained occasional angular fragments of sandstone.

3.2.2 Two features were also revealed. The latest of these was a stone built feature (09) which could have been the butt end of a wall or perhaps a base the function of which is unknown. The structure lay above a small area of metalling (08), the original extent of which is unknown because it had been disturbed by later activity. No dating evidence was recovered from either of the features.

3.3 Trench B

3.3.1 The topsoil (01) was similar to that encountered in trench A but was c 0.7m deep. This was removed to reveal the red clay and sandstone subsoil (02) over most of the trench. At the northern end of the trench less topsoil was present, and its removal revealed a red clay layer with a greater amount of stone (16) than the natural subsoil which appeared to form a low platform. This could be associated with the building marked on the tithe survey.

3.3.2 A shallow ditch or gully (18) with an irregular profile was revealed at the southern end of the trench. This was filled with a red clay loam with occasional fragments of angular sandstone. The purpose of the feature was not established, and no dating evidence was recovered.

3.4 Trench C

3.4.1 The topsoil (01) in Trench C was between 0.48m and 0.67m deep. Its removal again revealed the red clay subsoil (02) across most of the site.

3.4.2 A number of irregular features were revealed at the north-western end of the trench (03;05;07), all of which were filled with a red clay loam with large amounts of angular sandstone (04;06;08). The excavation of these features revealed that they were all shallow and contained modern material.

3.5 Finds

3.5.1 A large amount of modern material including bottles, clay pipe and pottery was recovered from the topsoil. Two sherds of medieval green-glazed pottery and a gun flint were also recovered from the topsoil.

4 CONCLUSIONS

4.1 The desk-top assessment suggested that there was a strong likelihood of features relating to the medieval occupation of Llanddew surviving on the site. These could include buildings on the street frontage, rubbish or latrine pits, or the continuation of a possible leat feature and other earthworks visible in the field to the north-east.

4.2 The excavation part of the evaluation revealed little evidence of such features. The possible platform in trench B thought to be associated with the building shown on the tithe map may have a medieval origin, but other features all appeared to be modern. Garden cultivation suggested by the depth of topsoil on the site may have removed evidence of medieval occupation, but the lack of medieval features could also suggest that it was not occupied in that period. It is also possible that remains survive elsewhere within the plot but outside the areas excavated.

5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our thanks must go firstly to Mr and Mrs Carpenter for their help and hospitality during the evaluation. The machining on the site was carried out by Mr Austin Price of Brecon, and the excavation of the site was carried out with the assistance of Richard Hankinson of CPAT

6. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Jones, N. 1993. Brecknock Borough Historic Settlements: Earthwork Survey. CPAT Report 83

Martin, C.H.R., and Walters, M.J. 1993. Brecknock Borough Historic Settlements Survey. CPAT Report 60

Map Sources

1841 Tithe Survey and apportionment of Llanddew Parish. National Library of Wales.

1888 1st Edition of the Ordnance Survey 25" series. Brecon 28.5. National Library of Wales.

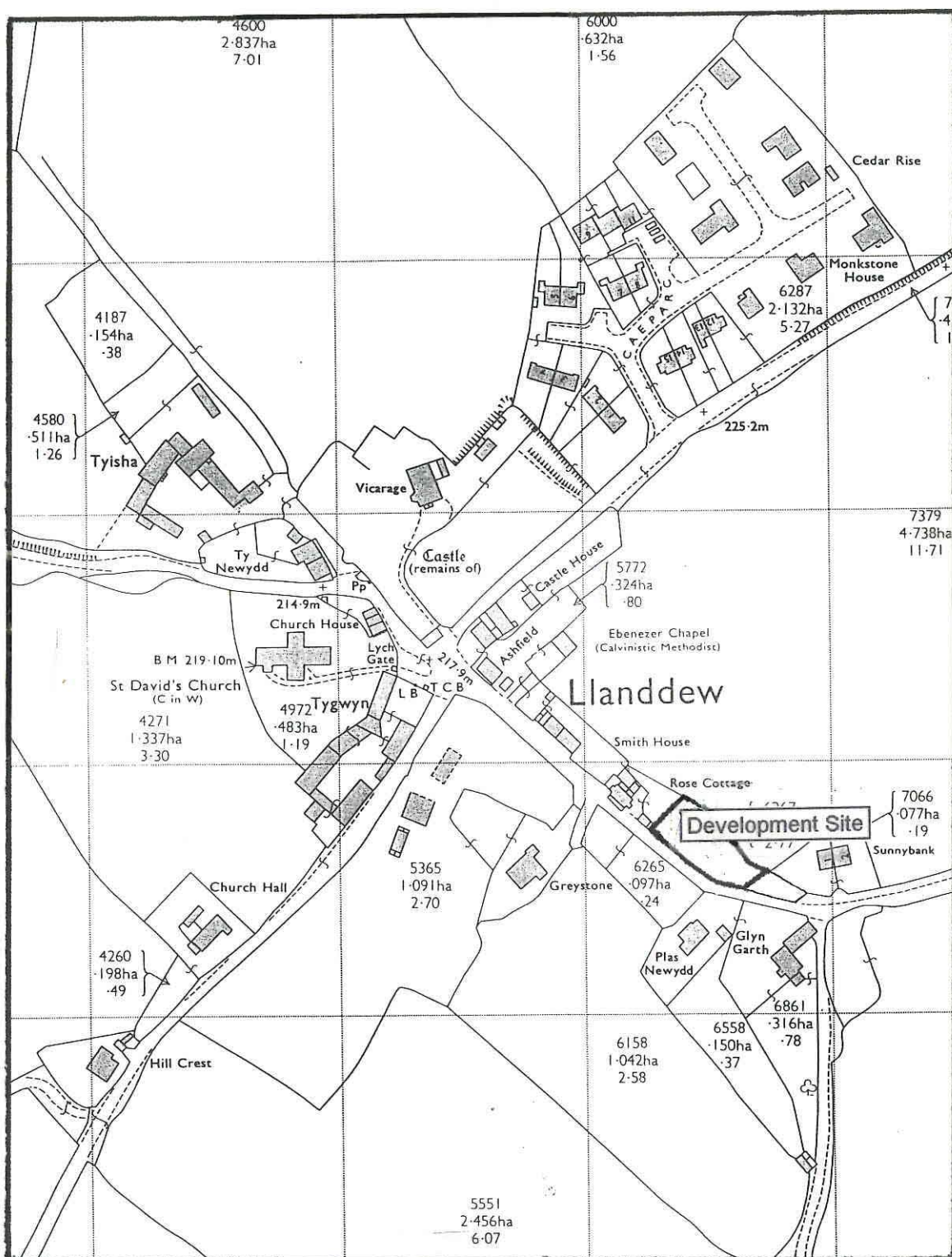


Fig 1: Site Location (1:2500).

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey's
1: ~~2500~~ map of 1974 with the permission
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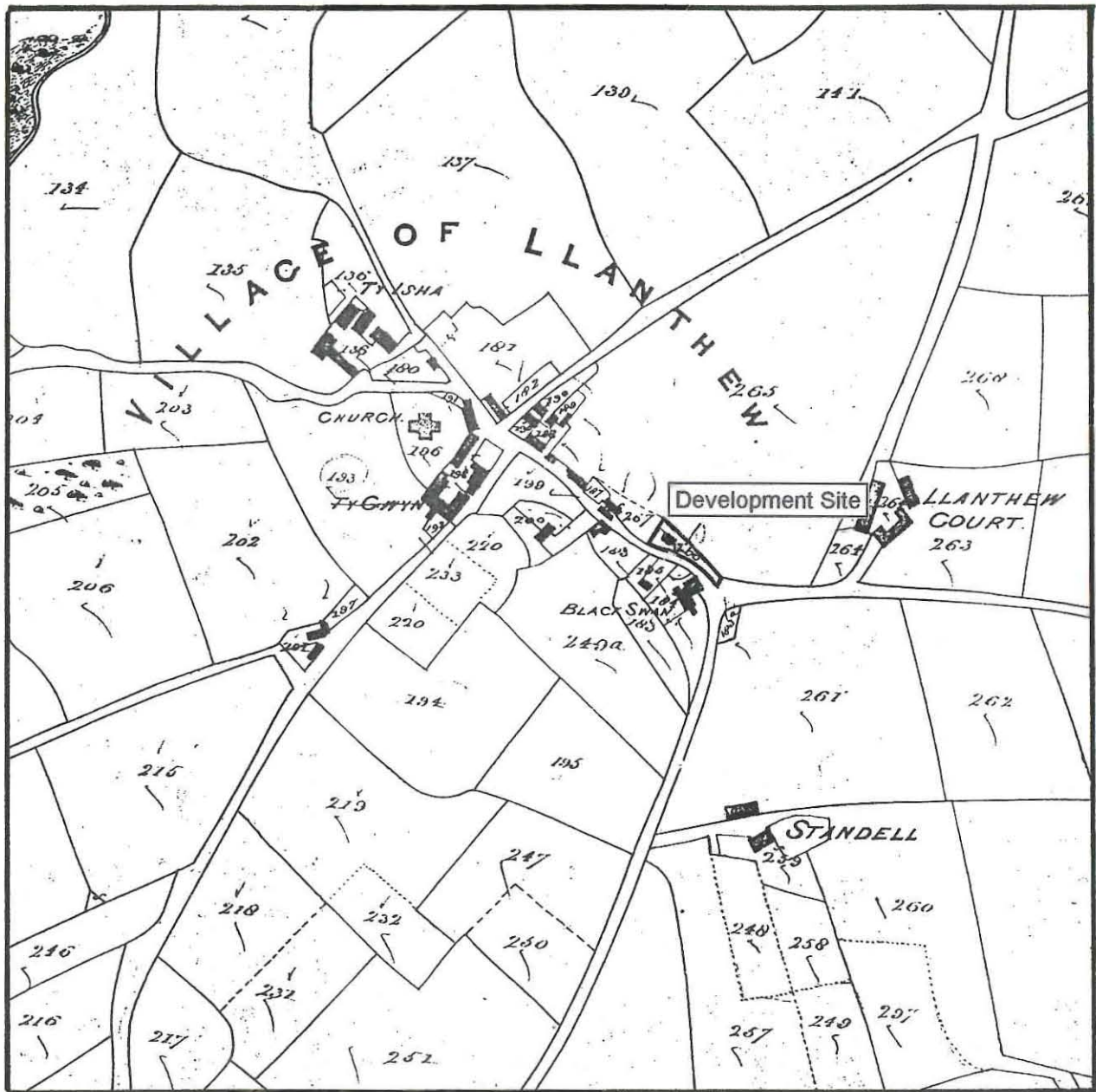


Fig 2: Tithe Map of Llanddew Parish (1841).

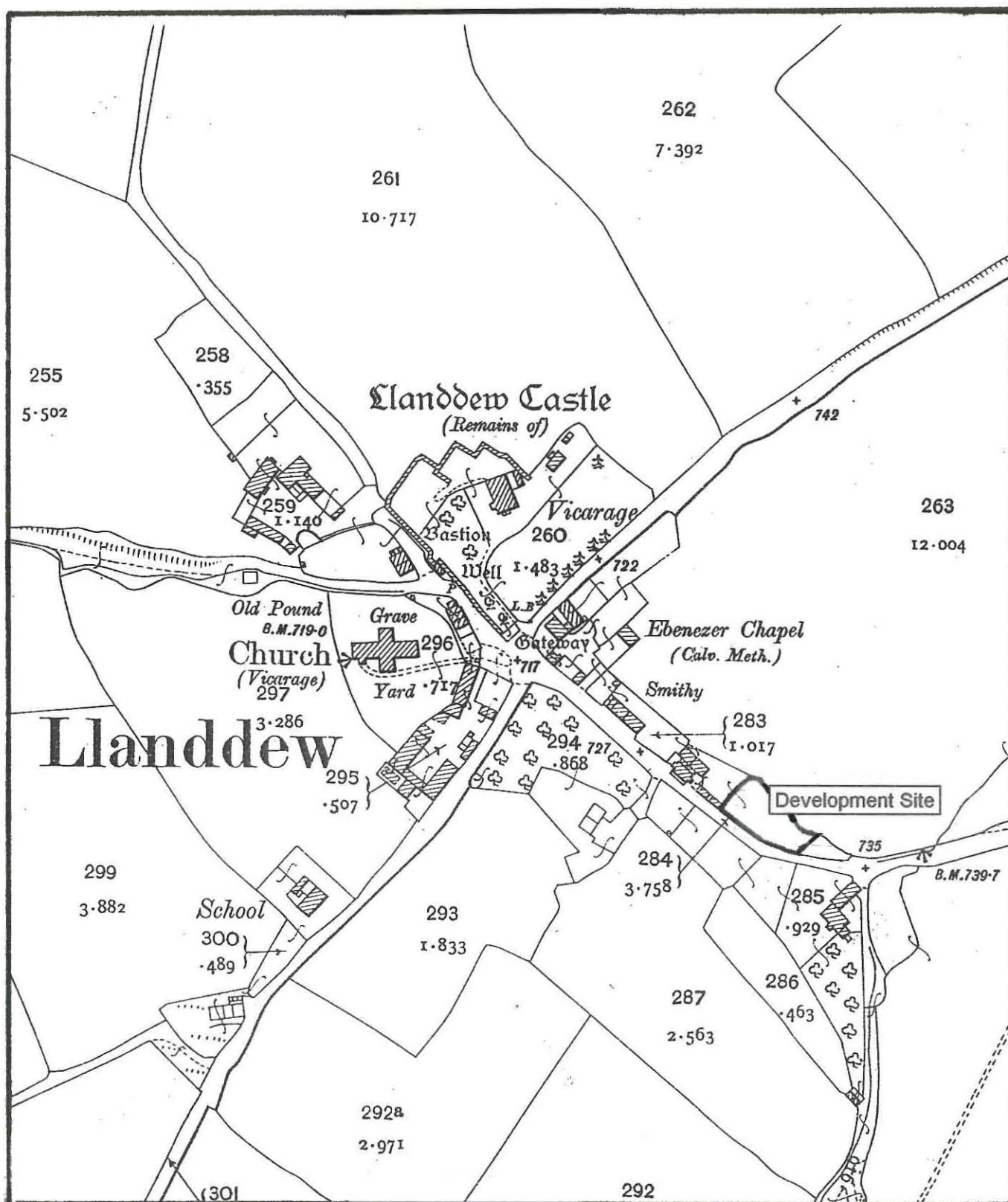


Fig 3: 1st Edition of the Ordnance Survey 25" series (1888). Brecknock 28.5



Fig 4: Site in relation to previously surveyed earthworks. 1:1250 (after Jones 1993)

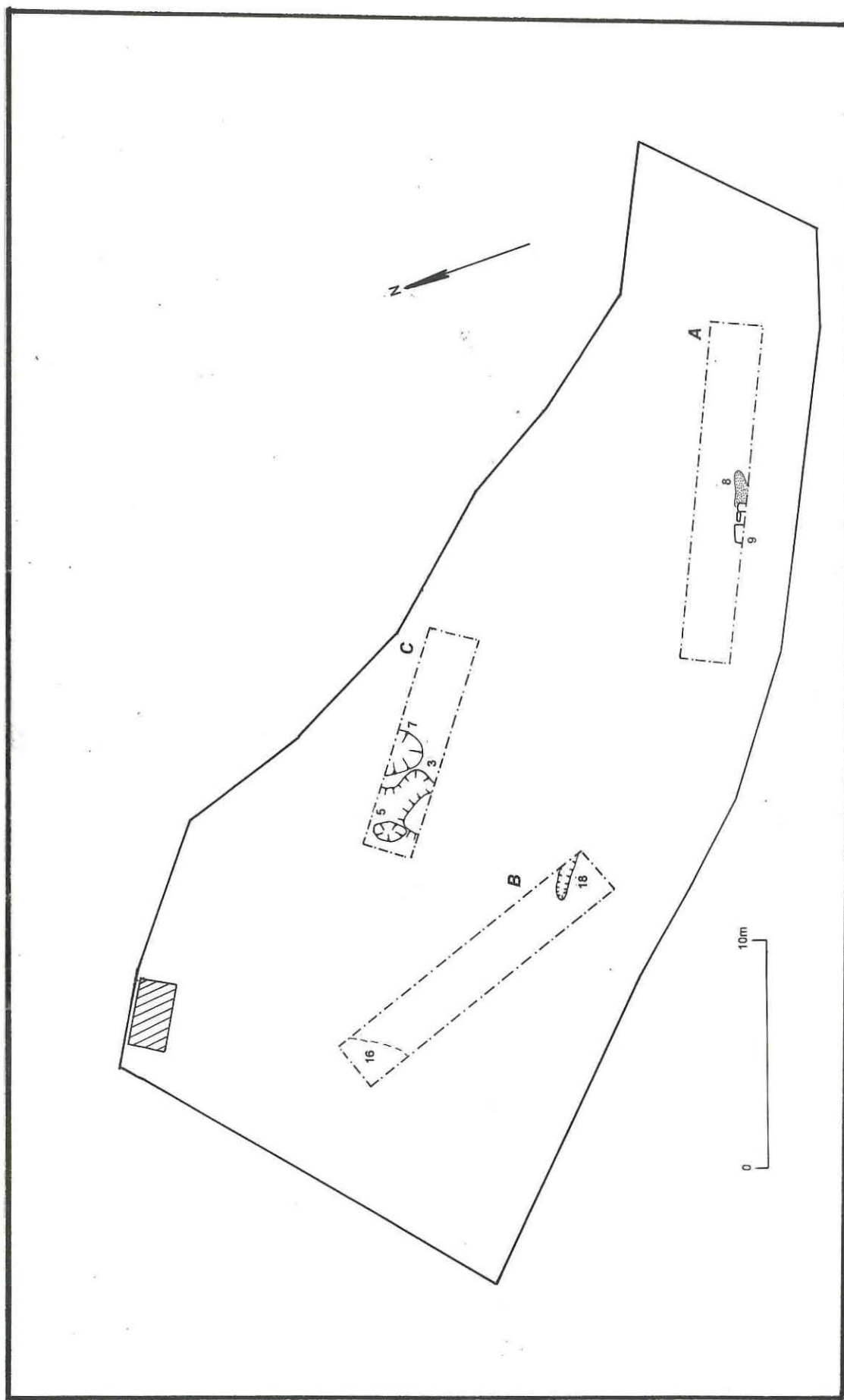


Fig 5: Location of trenches and excavated features.

APPENDIX 1

LAND ADJACENT TO ROSE COTTAGE, LLANDDEW, POWYS

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

1 Introduction

- 1.1** The proposed development of a block of land occupying 0.08ha involves the construction of a single dwelling with new access and mains supply.
- 1.2** This area lies within the historic core of the settlement and occupies a known Medieval street frontage. The condition of the site and proximity of extant deserted settlement earthworks suggest that significant archaeological remains may be present within the development area.
- 1.3** The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, in their capacity as archaeological curators for the county, have determined that a field evaluation is necessary to assess the implications of the proposed development on the archaeological resource. Accordingly, a brief (No EVB 15 dated 6th September 1995) has been prepared by M.J.Walters, which describes the scheme of archaeological works required.

2 Objectives

- 2.1** The objectives of the evaluation are:
 - 2.1.1** to reveal by means of a combination of desk-based assessment and evaluation trenches, 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 the archaeological resource and make recommendations options for its future management, including any further provision for that resource where it is considered necessary.

3 Methods

- 3.1** Stage one of the evaluation will involve the examination of all the readily available primary and secondary records relating to this part of the town, including documentary and cartographic sources. Archives and repositories will include the County Sites and Monuments Record, the County Record Office, the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, and records held by the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments in Wales, Aberystwyth.

- 3.2** Stage two will take the form of excavation three trenches (Trench A, 15 x 1.5m, Trench B, 15 x 1.5m, Trench C, 10 x 1.5m). Where required these 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.
- 3.3** The evaluation will be undertaken using standard evaluation procedures:
- 3.3.1** removal of modern overburden by machine;
- 3.3.2** 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.
- 3.3.3** 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.
- 3.3.4** 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.
- 3.4** Following the on-site work an illustrated and bound report will be prepared according to the principles laid out in the Evaluation Brief (section 3.8). 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.
- 3.5** 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 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 six 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. 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.

N.W.Jones

APPENDIX 2

ARCHIVE

Report

The master copy of this report is stored on disk at CPAT offices at 20 High Street, Welshpool as are the originals of the drawings.

Survey

The original EDM data is stored on disk with hard copies at CPAT.

Context Records

Record forms describing each context are stored at CPAT.

Photographic

35mm colour slides and black and white negatives are stored at CPAT as are the contact and archive prints.

Finds

The modern material from the topsoil was not retained. The finds archive therefore consists of the two sherds of green-glazed medieval pottery and the gun flint. All are stored at CPAT.