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Archaeological Perspectives Analysis Consultancy

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

WATCHING BRIEF

WB/05/LB/07

**Glebe Farm Maes Ffynnon, Llanbedr.****Brecon Beacons National Park Authority****Planning Application No: 06/00458/OUT****08/02176/REM****CPAT HER**

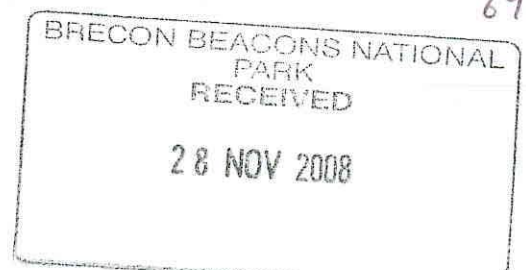
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**Cover Photograph:** Site looking east prior to excavation



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## Non Technical Summary

*This report results from work undertaken by Archaeological Perspectives & Analysis Consultancy (A.P.A.C. Ltd) on behalf of Mr & Mrs Jones, Ty Mawr Llanbedr, Crickhowell. NP8 1SY. The site comprised an area of rough ground which used to form part of an orchard belonging to Glebe Farm. The site has been earmarked for development to comprise of the construction of a single two storey dwelling and parking place. Due to the occurrence of archaeological resources in the vicinity, a clause was included in the planning permission requiring the presence of an archaeologist during groundwork. The purpose of this watching brief was to record any archaeological resources left in situ and advise on any mitigation arising from such resources; if found. No significant archaeological resources were uncovered during this work*

## Introduction

### Location and scope of work

Planning permission, 06/00458/OUT, was requested from Brecon Beacons National Park, Planning Dept for the erection of a single, two storey dwelling and parking space on part of the ground at Glebe Farm, Maes Ffynnon, Llanbedr NP8 1SR. The location of the site is at OS grid reference 324031 220352, shown in fig 01.

A condition was imposed on the planning document 06/0620/4, expressing the need for the presence of an archaeologist during groundwork.

A.P.A.C. Ltd was contacted in August 2007 and a site visit was undertaken by Dr Neil Phillips of A.P.A.C. Ltd in relation to the planning condition. Dr Phillips used the visit to familiarise himself with the area and to identify any potential, visible archaeological features. No archaeological resources were identified from the field visit.

Dr Phillips prepared a watching brief proposal, designed to the requirements of the planning document. Copies of the watching brief were handed to the client, Mr T. Jones, prior to commencement of the work, so that they could be forwarded to Brecon Beacons National Park, Planning Dept for confirmation of acceptance.

In 17<sup>th</sup> of September 2008 planning document 08/02176/REM; a revision of 06/00458/OUT was passed and on the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2008, a date of the 14<sup>th</sup> November was set for groundwork to be undertaken.

The watching brief was directed to any sub surface work at the site; specifically the excavation by machine of the foundation trench for the proposed dwelling fig 02.

### Geology and topography

According to the Solid and Drift Survey of England and Wales, 232 1980, the soil present on the site conforms to 'Fluvio-glacial sand and gravel', overlaying a layer of rounded cobbles consistent with 'River Terrace Deposits'. The underlying geology is Lower Old Red Sandstone, predominantly of the 'Senni Beds'

The topography of the land is a valley settlement to the east of Table Mountain, Crickhowell.

### Archaeological and historical background

Known archaeological resources around the general area range from prehistoric to modern but within the immediate vicinity; 0.1km, the archaeological resources are dominated by the medieval and post medieval: The medieval church and environs of St Peters CARN nos: 16491, 15922, 16493, 301769 and the cross 1060

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and 306293. Also from the medieval period is the spring CARN no: 26647 which is part of the environs of Llanbedr House; itself post-med, CARN nos: 25754, 70193 and 86071. Other post-med buildings include Penuel Chapel CARN no: 6069 and The Red Lion Inn CARN nos: 70194 and 16140.

There appears to have been no recorded activity within the area of the site, although the present owner recalls that it used to be an orchard within living memory *pers com* Jones. T., 2008.

The 1<sup>st</sup> edition, 1891, ordnance survey map shows the site as a large open area at the rear of Glebe Farm, fig 03. Nothing much changes by the 1905 map (not shown) but by 1922; fig 04, the area has been greatly reduced to provide for the land belonging to the newly built Rectory. The site of this watching brief is contained between the building and garden to the north and the rectory land boundary fence.

## **Aims and Objectives**

### **Watching Brief**

The aim of the watching brief was to preserve by record, within the resources available, any archaeological deposits uncovered during groundwork.

The watching brief would also ensure that: in the event of archaeological resources of significance being discovered requiring treatment beyond the remit of the watching brief; then steps would be implemented to ensure that their treatment would be undertaken within the standards recommended by the IFA.

### **Watching Brief Methodology**

#### **Fieldwork**

Groundwork at the site entailed the excavation of a foundation trench house plot fig 02, Plates 01, 02 & 03. The trench measures approximately 10m x 10m x 1m wide with a maximum depth of 900mm.

The watching brief consisted of an archaeological fieldworker being present during groundwork at the site. All groundwork was undertaken using a mechanical digger.

Initial excavation work, topography and lack of finds soon suggested that the soil being removed was mostly natural drift deposit overlaying river terrace deposits. Within the natural drift deposit were three exceptions; three different service trenches containing modern pipes, fig 02.

Photographs were taken using a digital camera set at 5mega pixels.

All trenches were related to a site survey undertaken by A.P.A.C. Ltd using a Total Station. The site datum is arbitrary.

### **Watching Brief Results**

#### **Soils and ground conditions**

The site and weather conditions for the first day of the watching brief were good and dry. Overnight rain however, preceding the second day turned the clay surface of the site into a sticky quagmire Plate 3.

The general stratigraphy over the site was one of redistributed soils, ash, clay and domestic and building debris.

Contexts recorded are:







- {100} topsoil,
- {101} Dark red sandy soil, (Drift)
- {102} Red sandy soil with rounded cobbles, (Riverine deposit)

### **Descriptions**

Plate 01 & Plate 04 show the position of pipe 1 at about 400mm beneath ground surface. The pipe is a 6 inch plastic drain pipe set in a gravel bed.

Pipe 2 is a black plastic, 25mm diameter, water pipe in a yellow plastic corrugated sheath. At the north-west end of the trench, pipe 2 lies directly over pipe 1 at a depth of about 150mm, fig 05. However, at the east limit of the trench, pipe 2, veers south of pipe 1 by about 2.5m, fig 02.

Pipe 3 was clay, 6 inch diameter; again at a depth of 400mm but at a different alignment than pipe 1 and not set in a gravel bed, fig 06.

All the pipes would appear to be modern incursions.

Plate 07 shows a view along the northern edge of the trench. The stratigraphy visible shows a darker sandy soil overlaying a red sandy soil containing quantities of rounded cobbles consistent with a river terrace deposit.

No finds were recovered or features discovered.

### **Discussion and Interpretation**

#### **Reliability of field investigation**

The watching brief was conducted at periods of active excavation. Weather and ground conditions had no negative consequences to the undertaking. The reliability of the findings therefore, were good.

#### **Overall interpretation**

The watching brief revealed no archaeological resources.

### **Acknowledgements**

Thanks to Mr and Mrs Jones for their assistance and refreshments and their son the digger driver for extending every effort to contribute to the efficient and effective outcome of the undertaking.

**Archive deposit: A.P.A.C. Ltd.**





## Bibliography and references

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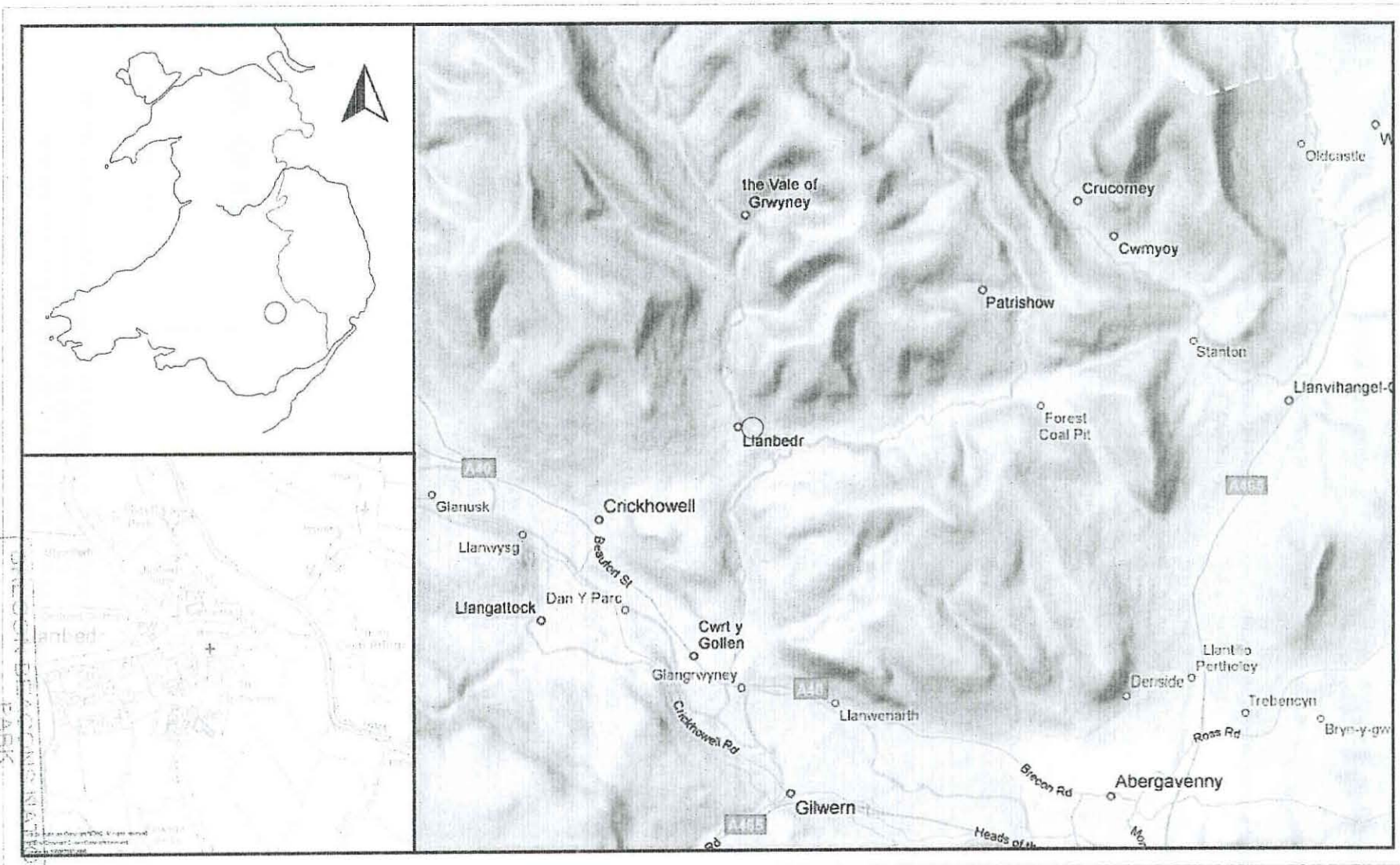


Fig 01: Location Map



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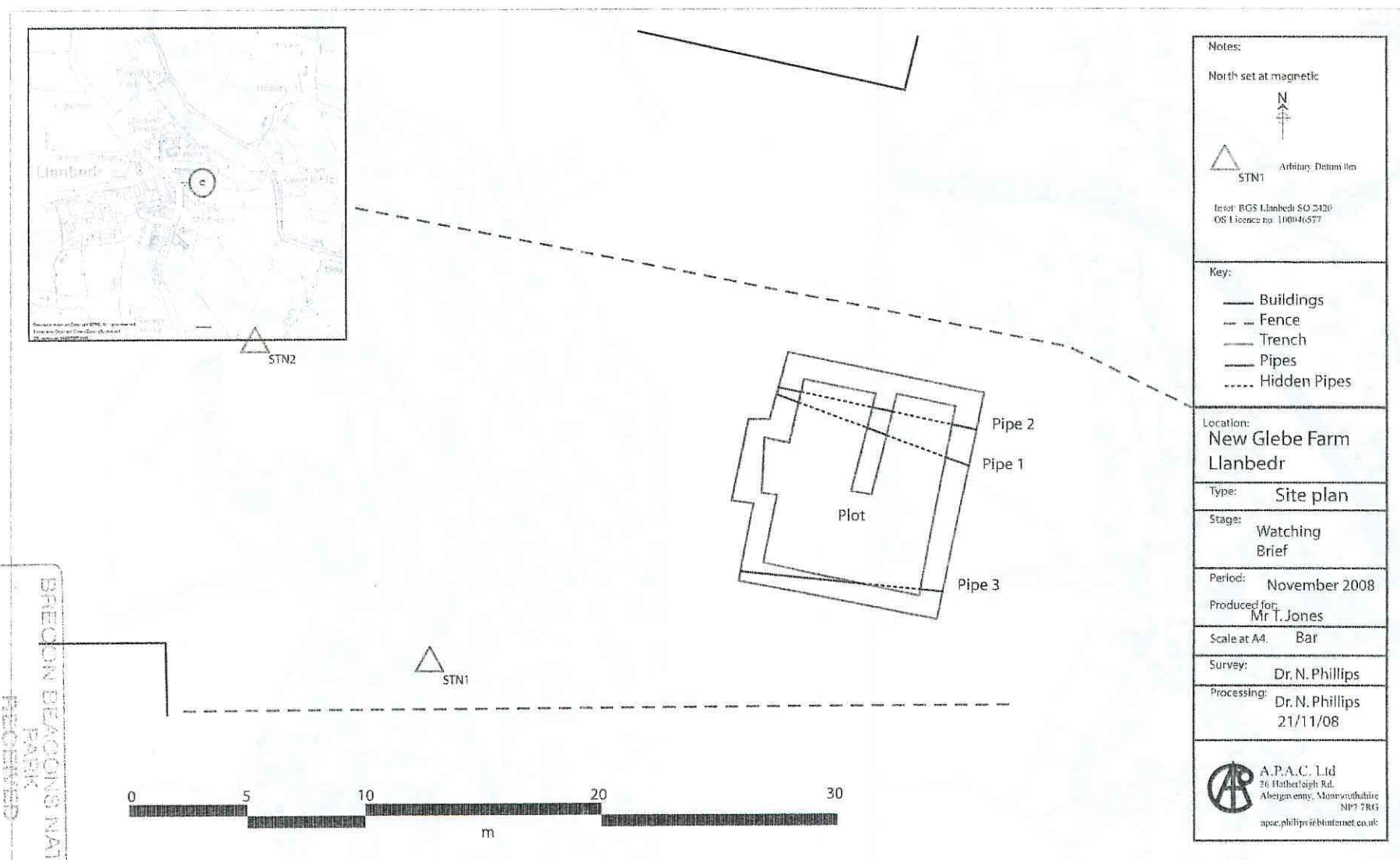


Fig 02: Site plan

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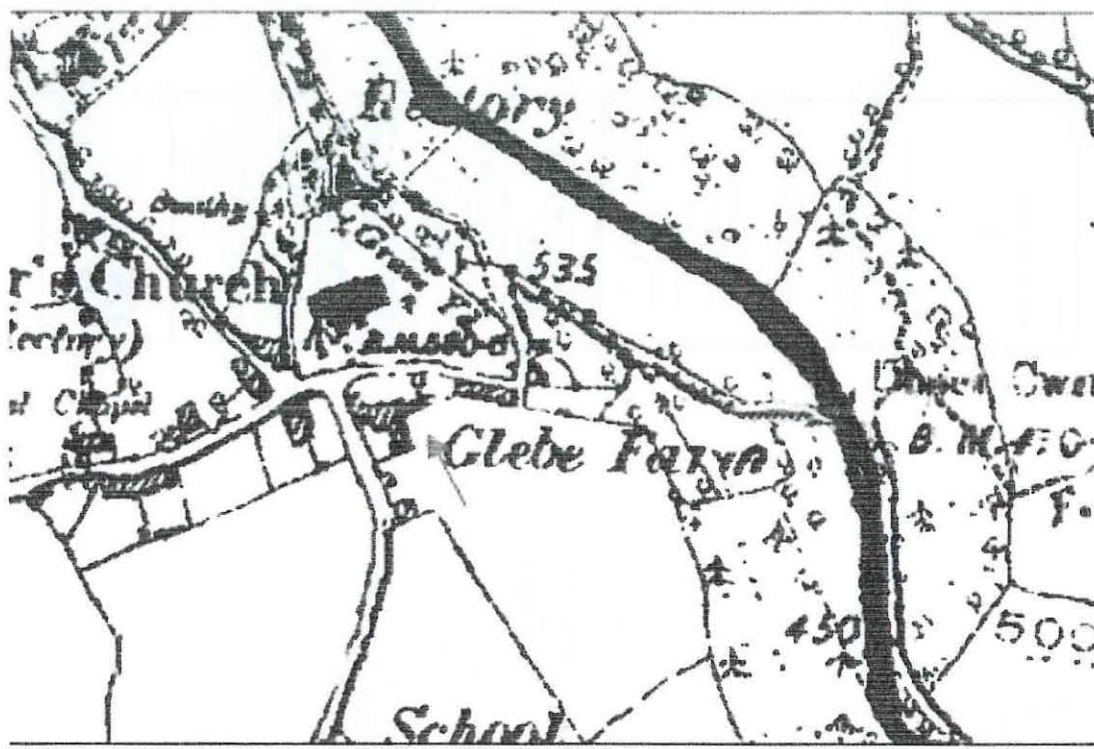


Fig 03: 1891 Breconshire 1:10 500



Fig 04: 1922 Monmouthshire 1:10 500





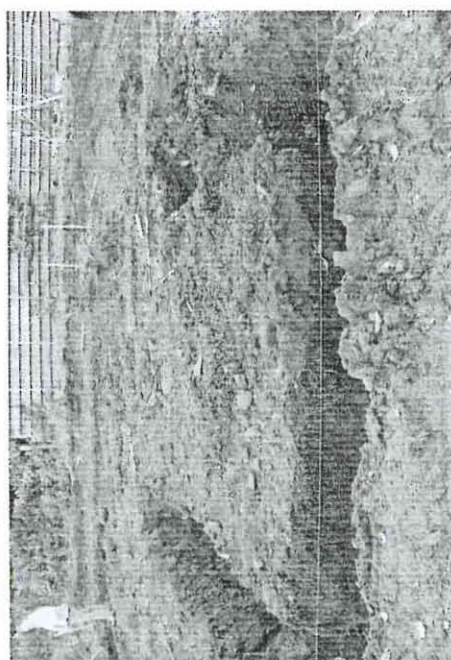


Plate 01: Trench Location, view south

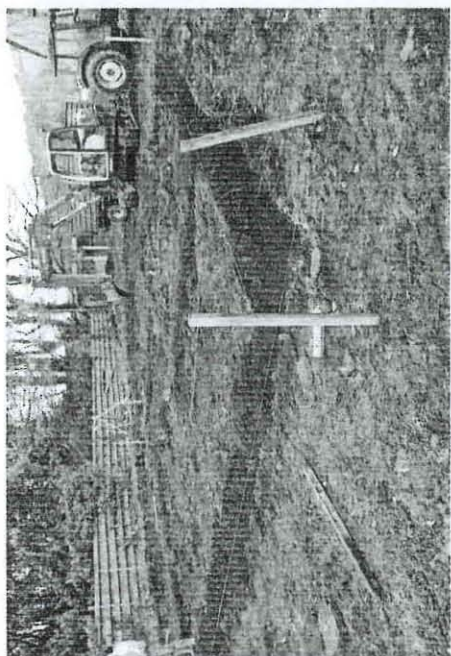


Plate 02: Trench Location, view south west.



Plate 03: Trench Location, view east



Plate 04: PlatePipe 1 east edge of trench

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Plate 07: Northern edge of trench



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Plate 05: Pipes 1 & 2 view north

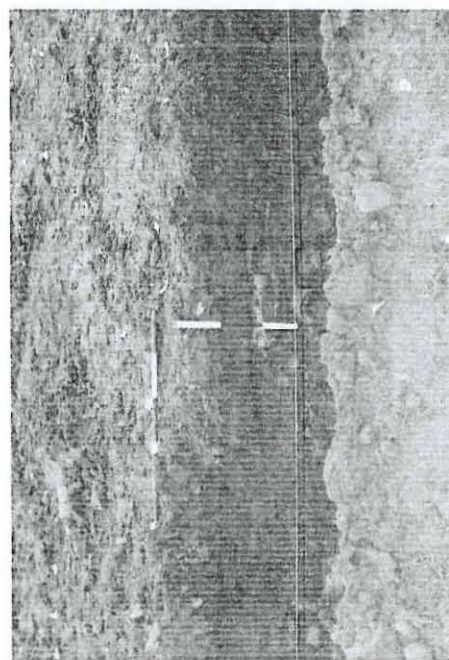


Plate 06: Pipe 3 along south edge of trench

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