

THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Land Opposite the Llais Afon Inn, Betws-yn-Rhos, Conwy

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION



CPAT Report No 872

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**Land Opposite the Llais Afon Inn,
Betws-yn-Rhos, Conwy**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

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May 2007

Report for Jones and Fishwick Ltd

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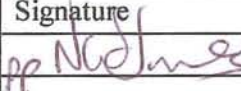
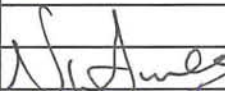

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CPAT Report Record

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PLATES

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Field Services Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) was invited in June 2006 to prepare a specification of works for undertaking an archaeological excavation in connection with a new residential development on land opposite the Llais Afon Inn, in Betws-yn-Rhos. The Curatorial Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, acting as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority, had determined that a programme of archaeological excavation should be undertaken and a curatorial brief was prepared detailing the works required (EXC 621).
- 1.2 Information held by the regional Historic Environment Record indicated that the site is located within the medieval core of the village and an archaeological evaluation had been undertaken by CPAT in 2004, which revealed medieval and post-medieval structures on the street frontage, as well as a series of prehistoric pits and gullies in the central and western part of the site (Grant and Hankinson 2004). The location of the prehistoric features was such that the development was likely to lead to their loss, and as a result the Curator had determined that this area of the development should be subject to full excavation. The results from the initial evaluation have been incorporated into the following report.

2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 2.1 The village of Betws-yn-Rhos lies approximately 5km to the south-west of Abergele in the valley of a minor tributary of the River Dulas at approximately 100m OD, on the lower, north-facing slopes of a range of low hills which separates the valleys of the Rivers Dulas and Elwy.
- 2.2 The development plot is situated in the southern part of the village (SH 90667349), on the south side of the main east to west road through the village (see Fig. 1). The solid geology of the area consists of mudstones and siltstones belonging to the Ludlow Series of rocks belonging to the Silurian era (1994 British Geological Survey map). The soils in the immediate area of the evaluation consist of fine loamy or silty soils belonging to the Manod Association, and fine silty and clayey soils belonging to the Cegin Association (1983 Soil Survey of England and Wales map).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Prior to the archaeological evaluation in 2004 no prehistoric activity had been recognised in the vicinity of the village. The results from that excavation indicated the presence of Neolithic occupation, potentially domestic in character. In passing we should note that a Bronze Age hoard was discovered on Moelfre Uchaf, some 2km to the south-west of the village.
- 3.2 Evidence of Roman activity occurs to the north within one kilometre of the village, presumably focussed on the line of the Roman road (PRN 46900) between *Deva* (Chester) and *Canovium* (Caerhŷn). A cropmark (PRN 100509), which appears to represent a defended settlement of Roman date, has been identified some 950m to the north-north-east of the village.
- 3.3 The village of Betws-yn-Rhos, also formerly known as Betws Abergele, is believed to be of medieval origin. Two main reasons for this have been put forward, namely that the churchyard appears to have been roughly circular prior to later extensions, thereby suggesting an early origin, and that the name 'Betws' is usually associated with a subsidiary chapel of medieval date. In this case, Rhos refers to the medieval *cantref* in which the village lies, this being a land division that became politically redundant with the Act of Union in the mid-16th century.

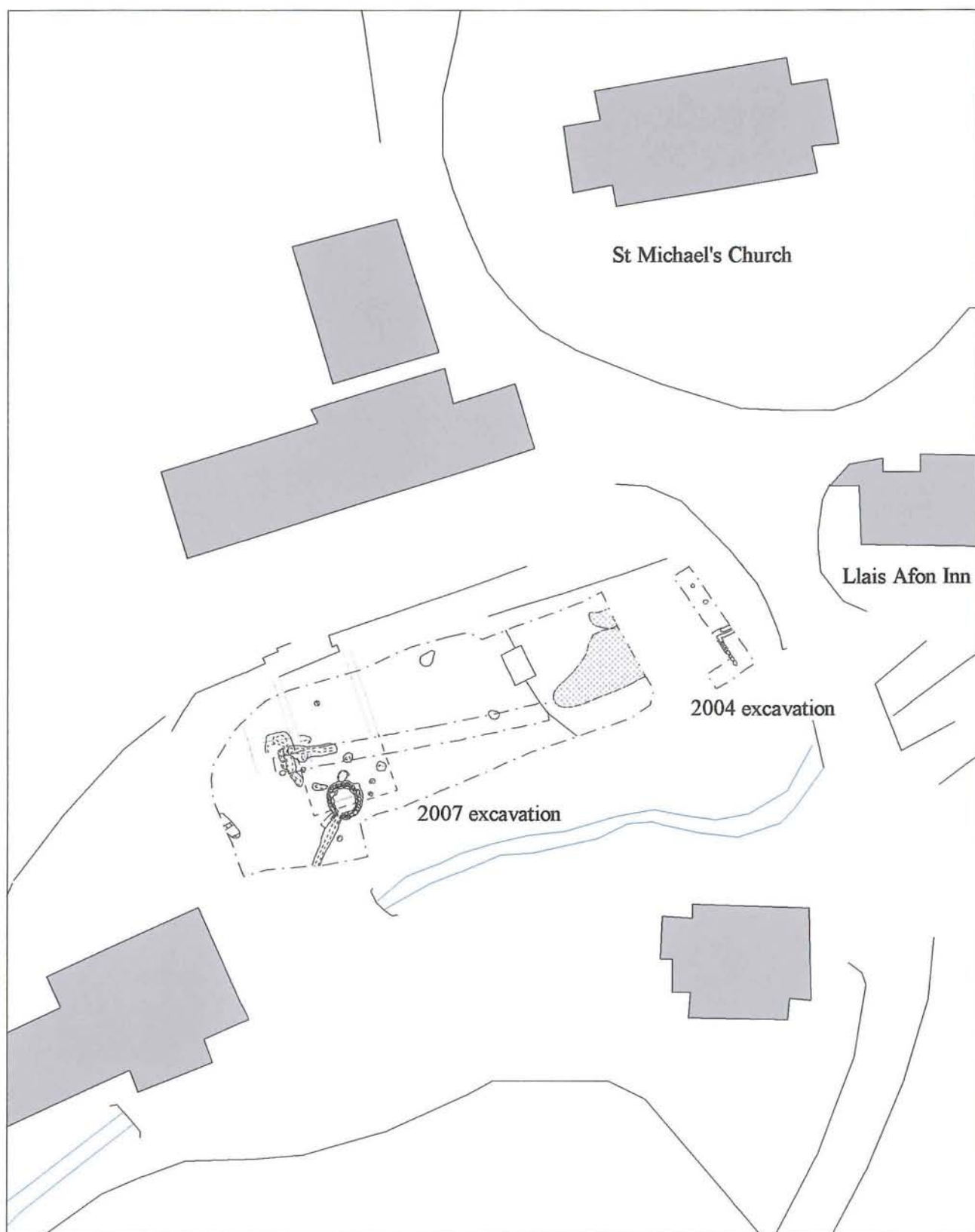


Fig. 1 Location of excavated areas, scale 1:500

- 3.4 Later occupation of the district is characterised by a small number of post-medieval houses, including the Llais Afon Inn which faces the development area, while the remainder of the buildings in the village are thought to be of 18th- and 19th-century date (Owen 1994).

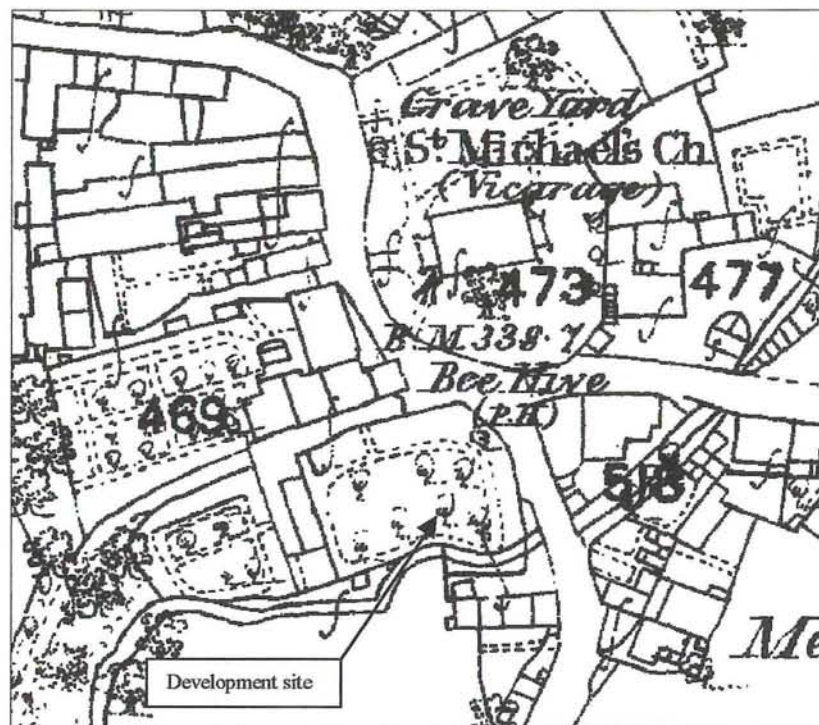


Fig. 2 1st edition Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 map, 1875

- 3.5 Within the area of the development, a single building, aligned approximately north to south, was depicted on the Tithe map of 1841. The accompanying apportionment describes the building as a cottage, which was still evident on the first edition Ordnance Survey 25" map of 1875 (Fig. 2), but by the time of the second edition map of 1900 (Fig. 3) it had been modified into, or replaced by, a greenhouse. Prior to the commencement of the development the north end of the cottage survived as a stone wall which formed a revetment to the slope near the northern boundary of the development plot.
- 3.6 It is interesting to note that the position of the stream has changed significantly to the south-west of the excavation since 1875, having adopted a straighter course by 1900. The present course is different again, with part of the stream having been culverted.

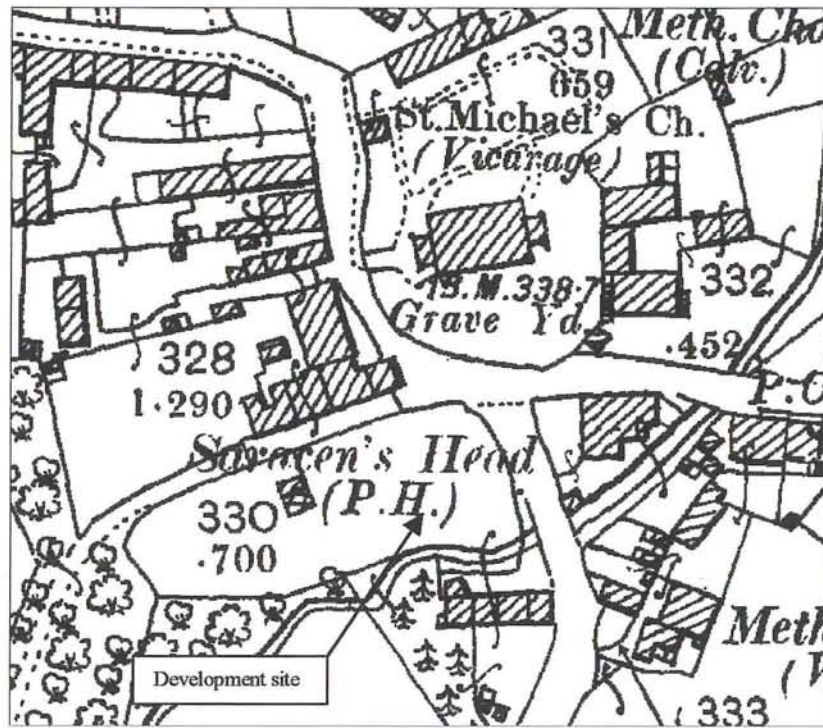


Fig. 3 2nd edition Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 map, 1900

4 EXCAVATION

- 4.1 The excavation was undertaken largely within the footprint of the new buildings, comprising a total area of 450m², measuring approximately 38.5 by 12.5m (Figs 4-5). The modern overburden was removed down to the level of the first recognisable archaeological horizon under close archaeological supervision using a machine excavator with a toothless bucket. Thereafter, all excavation was conducted by hand. Numbers in brackets in the following text refer to individual contexts in the site archive.
- 4.2 During the initial site clearance it became clear that the western end of the area contained a significant depth of redeposited material. Much of this is likely to have been relatively recent, perhaps dating from the 19th and 20th centuries, having been dumped downslope from the neighbouring plots. Beneath this, however, the excavations revealed a sequence of riverine deposits and hill-wash (Fig. 6), many containing numerous flecks of alluvial charcoal, which appeared to represent several major periods of deposition. Some of the deposits sealed archaeological horizons, most notably a group of Neolithic features which were sealed beneath a single riverine deposit (27) that itself contained fragments of Early Bronze Age Beaker ware. Although it was not possible to determine the exact sequence and nature of these deposits within the excavated area, they clearly indicate major changes in the course and level of the stream which now forms the southern limit of the development plot, with one former river terrace (24 and 65) being readily apparent; it is possible that some deposits may be related to periods of exceptional flooding. It is interesting to note that the course of the stream continued to change until the 20th century (see para 3.6; Fig. 2).



Plate 1 Work in progress removing the riverine and hillwash deposits sealing the Neolithic archaeology. Photo CPAT 2334-038

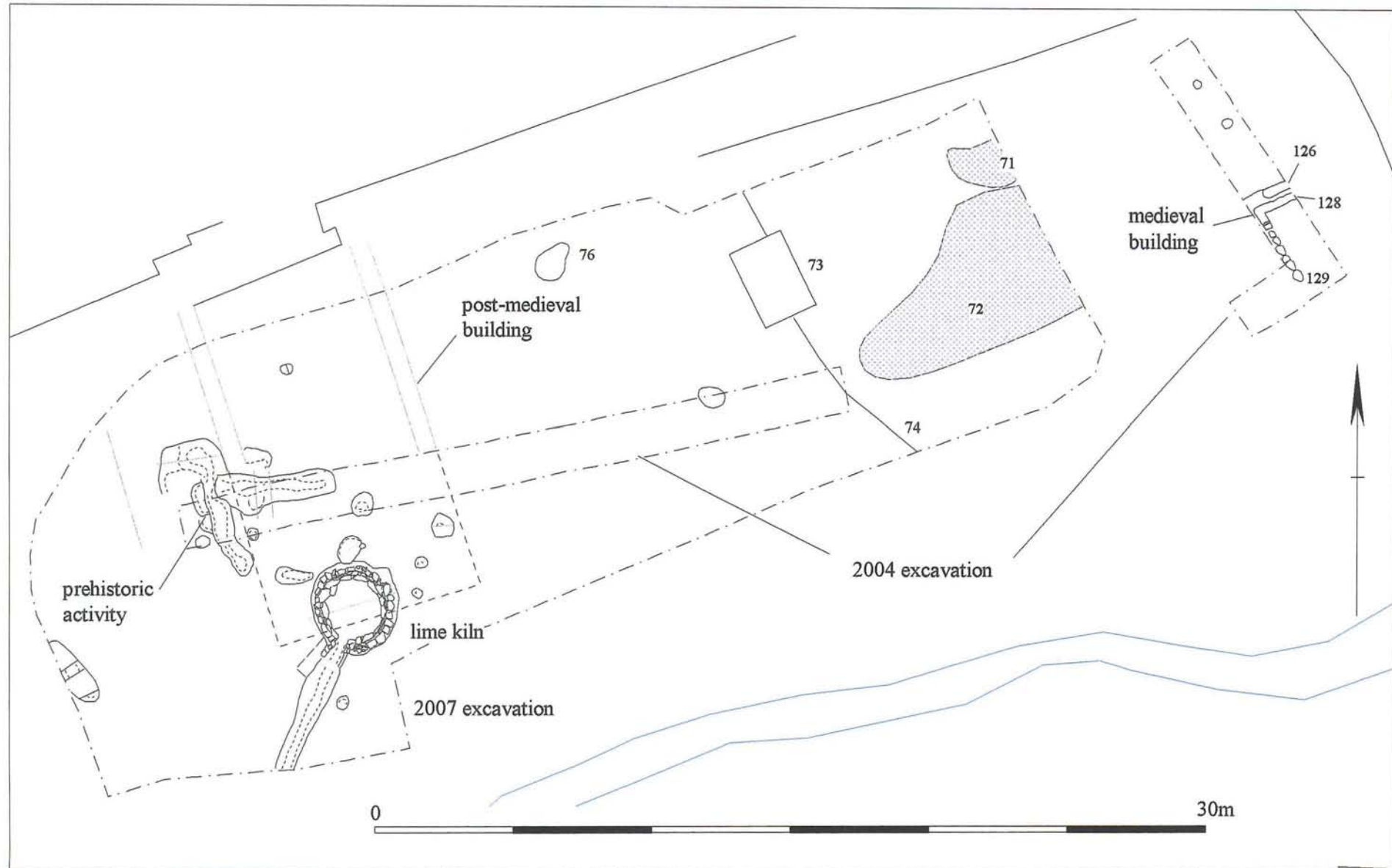


Fig. 4 Overall site plan showing main features

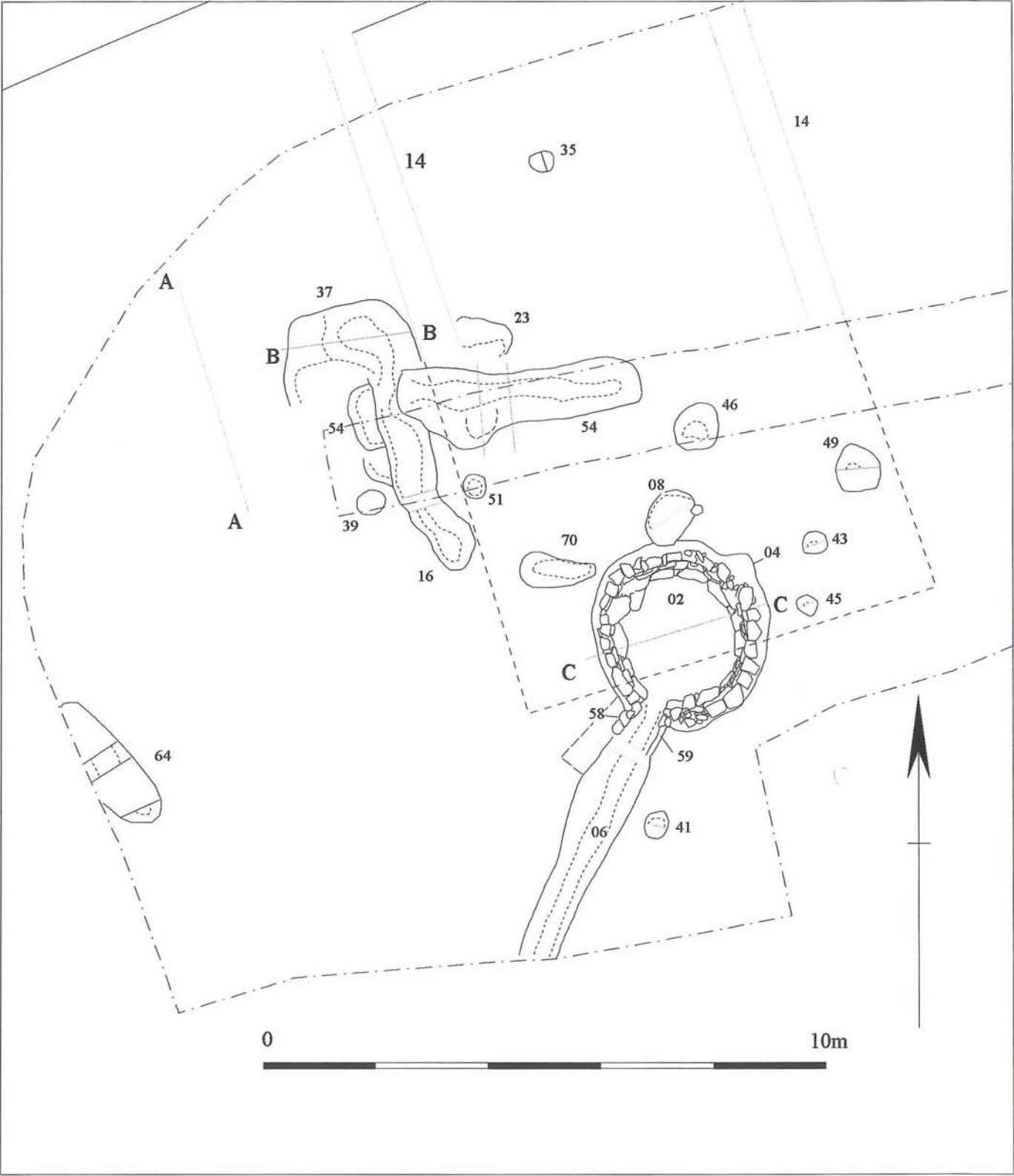


Fig. 5 Area of prehistoric activity, lime kiln, and post-medieval building

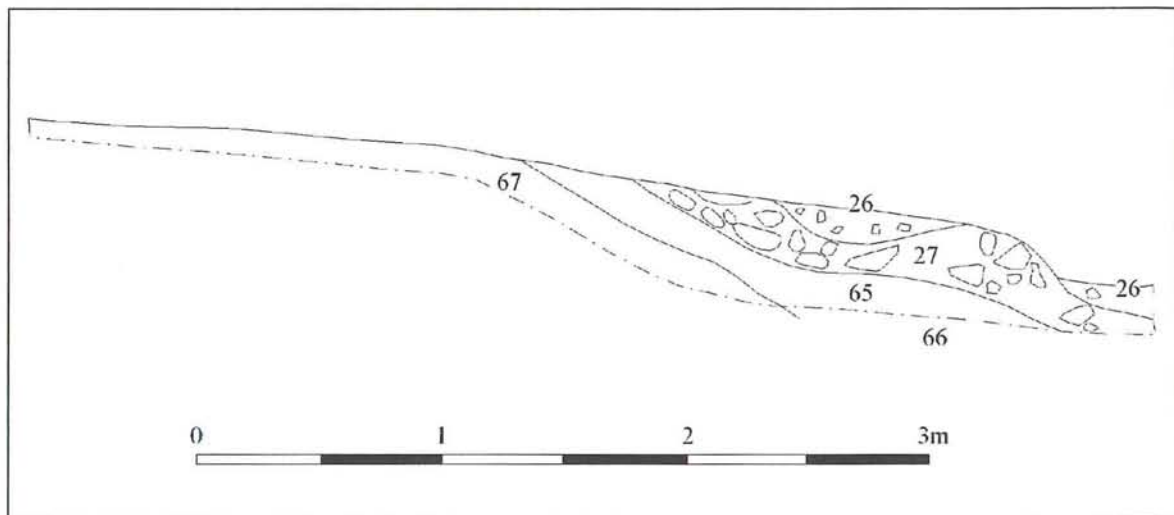


Fig. 6 Section A-A

Prehistoric activity

- 4.3 At the lowest levels of the excavation a series of features were identified at the western end of the site cutting into a former river terrace of orange-brown silt (24) and a natural river deposit of grey pebbly silt (66). All but one of the features (23) was sealed beneath a broad band of large, rounded stones and silt (27). Deposit 27 extended west to east across the whole of the site, indicating the line of an earlier course of the stream. In broad terms the features represent three main phases of occupation from the early Neolithic to the Bronze Age. The earliest feature was an irregular gully (54) located just below the former river terrace and aligned roughly east to west, up to 4.42m long, 1.36m wide and 0.27m deep. The basal fill of the gully consisting of a firm pale yellow silt (53), was sealed beneath a reddish-brown sandy silt (55), from which charcoal samples and five sherds and several scraps of Middle Neolithic Peterborough Ware were recovered. In places a tertiary fill of dark brown gritty silt (52) sealed this deposit.
- 4.4 The gully was truncated by two later features, a small pit (57) and a linear gully (16). The pit was 0.85m in diameter, 0.28m deep and contained a fill of dark reddish-brown silt (56). The gully (16), located at the western end of the earlier feature, was orientated north to south with a butt-ended terminus at the southern end, while the northern extent was unclear as it had been truncated by a later prehistoric pit (37). The gully was originally identified in the 2004 evaluation and upon further excavation it was found to be 3.6m in length, 0.73m wide and 0.37m deep, containing a single fill (15) of mid reddish-brown, firm, silty clay with occasional charcoal flecking. A fine rim sherd with twisted cord decoration of Middle Neolithic Peterborough (Mortlake) Ware, together with seven similar, but undecorated sherds and two fragments of pottery in a finer pale pink fabric were recovered from the base of the feature.
- 4.5 To either side of the gully was a post-hole (39 and 51). Post-hole 39, located on the western edge of the gully, was poorly defined with a diameter of 0.5m. The other post hole (51), of similar diameter with a depth of 0.2m, contained a single fill (50) of mid reddish-brown, firm, silty clay, comparative with the fill in the Neolithic gully.



Plate 2 The Neolithic gully (54). Photo CPAT 2334-118



Plate 3 The Neolithic gully 16. The later pit (37) can be seen in the background. Photo CPAT 2334-071

- 4.6 The northern end of gully 16 was truncated by a large, irregularly shaped pit (37), 2.53m in diameter and 0.9m deep. The pit was well-defined, with sharp concave sides and a possible post-setting in the base. The basal fill (33), a compact, dark grey gritty silt, contained fragments of Neolithic pottery together with a flint scraper and flake. The entire fill was retained for possible palaeoenvironmental analysis and dating. Above this was a dark yellowish-brown, coarse gravel (34) from which fragments of possibly Early Neolithic pottery were recovered, together with a flint blade, flake and core. The upper fill (32), a dark reddish-brown, gritty sandy silt, contained several fragments of similar pottery, together with a flint flake and core (see Plate 4 and Fig. 7).
- 4.7 Less than one metre to the east of the pit, and truncated by the 19th-century foundation trench for the cottage wall, a smaller prehistoric pit (23) was located on the edge of the former river terrace (24). The pit was 0.94m in diameter, 0.17m deep and contained a single fill (22) of very dark yellowish brown silt. The entire fill was retained for possible palaeoenvironmental analysis and dating (Find No. 509), and contained five fragments of pottery in a thin pale pink fabric, possibly Early Bronze Age Beaker ware, and four sherds of a dark vesicular fabric including one partial rim, probably dating to the Early Neolithic period.
- 4.8 A sub-circular pit (46) to the south-east of gully 54 had been partly excavated during the 2004 evaluation. The pit was 1.25m in diameter and 0.4m deep, with a fill of fire-blackened stones and charcoal. No artefacts were recovered from this feature.



Plate 4. South-facing section through the Neolithic pit (37). Photo CPAT 2334-046

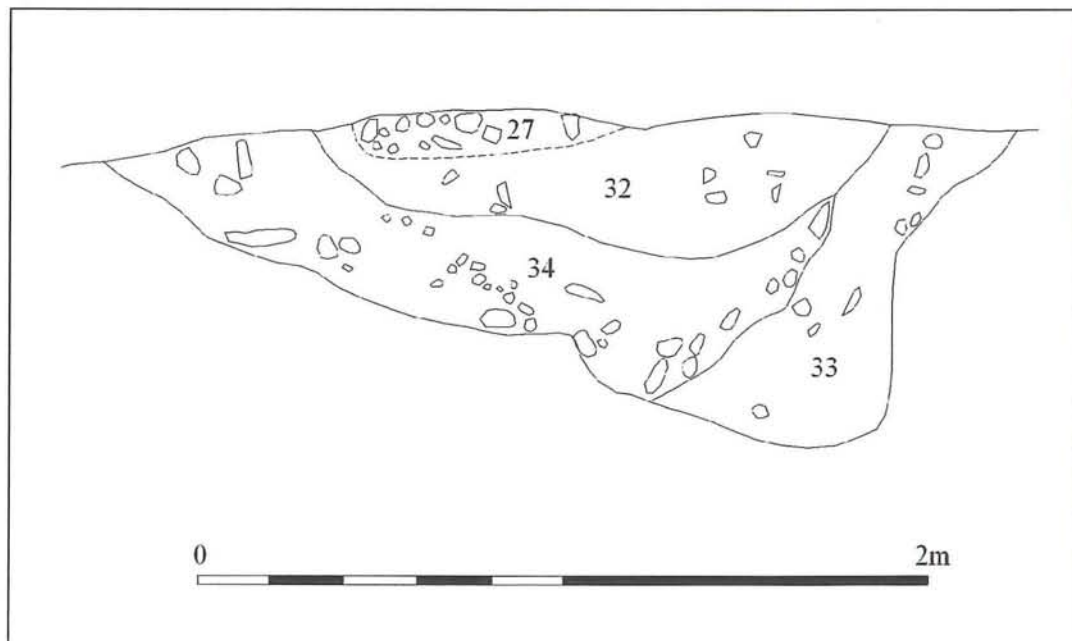


Fig. 7 Section B-B through prehistoric pit 37



Plate 5 Overall view of the area of prehistoric activity. The earliest feature is gully 5), centre-right. In the background is the later gully 16 and pit 37. The other Neolithic pit (23) is barely visible on the right, and in the foreground is pit 46. Photo CPAT 2334-114

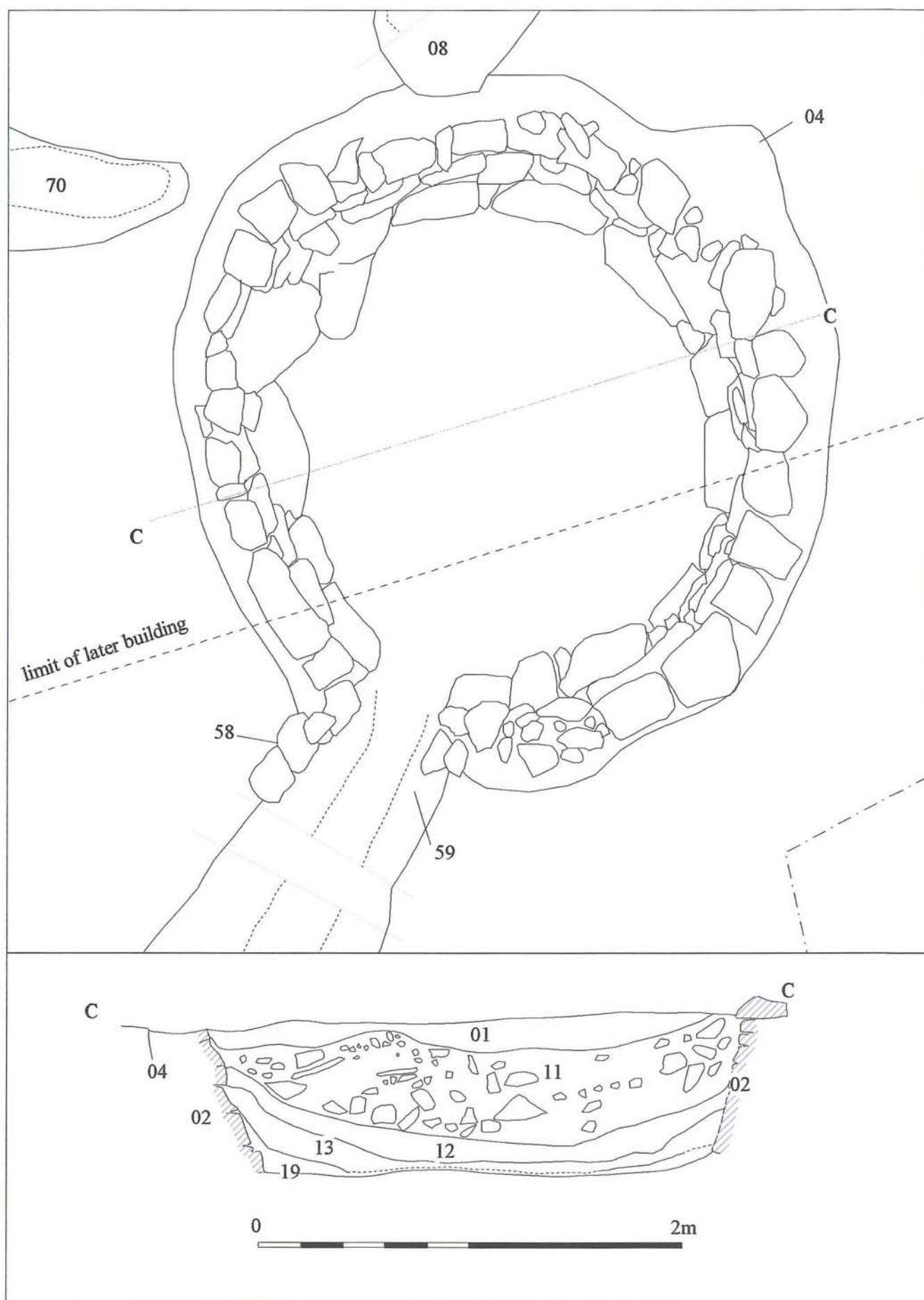


Fig. 8 Detailed plan of the lime kiln, scale 1:25

Medieval activity

- 4.9 The 2004 evaluation revealed a number of features and deposits close to the street frontage which indicated the presence of medieval occupation, generally sealed beneath a layer containing 16th-century pottery.
- 4.10 At the northern end of the trench the natural subsoil was sealed by a series of thin deposits which gave the impression of possible occupation layers interspersed with a silty hill-wash. Two linear slots were identified (126 and 128) running parallel to each other, and aligned east to west, both extending beyond the limits of the excavation on the eastern side. The northern slot (126), 1.0m in length and 0.3m wide, terminated in a butt end, while the southern slot (128) extended for 1.5m and then turned to the south for a further 0.6m. Both features contained similar fills (125 and 127) of a loose silty clay with charcoal flecks and small pea grit. A line of rounded sandstone blocks (129), their average size measuring 0.4m by 0.3m by 0.3m, extended from the southern end of slot 128, forming a single-course sleeper wall, 2.5m in length.
- 4.11 The features appear to represent the remains of a timber building along the street frontage, with sill beams laid in a slot at the northern end and resting on a sleeper wall to the south, levelling the sloping ground. The second slot may have been a drainage gully associated with the building, or possibly part of an earlier sill-beam structure.
- 4.12 No definite medieval features were identified during the 2007 excavations, although two remnant deposits did partially survive at the eastern extent of the excavation which could tentatively be associated with activity to the rear of the medieval building on the street frontage. One of the deposits (72), an area of river-rounded cobbles, had the appearance of a possible metallised surface, although there were no associated artefacts. This was sealed on the north side by a thin layer of burnt and charcoal-flecked silty clay (71).

Post-medieval activity

- 4.13 The excavations revealed the base of a sub-circular, stone-built lime kiln (02), constructed of large, roughly hewn limestone and sandstone blocks, set within a clay-lined (03) construction trench (04) cut into the natural riverine deposit (10). The walls of the kiln tapered towards the base, and survived to one or two courses above the surface of the subsoil, giving internal dimensions at the top of 2.7m from north to south and 2.4m from east to west, and narrowing by around 0.5m at the base. There was clear evidence for burning on the inner face of the walls and the surrounding subsoil had been considerably fire-reddened. The nature of the fire-reddening and differential decomposition of the limestone suggested that the kiln had not had a long period of use. The base of the kiln was covered by a layer of fine black soot (19), up to 0.10m thick, which in places extended part of the way up the walls. Two samples were taken from context 19 which could provide material for radiocarbon dating (Find Nos 501 and 518). The soot was sealed by two deposits, one of fine, burnt lime (13) and the other of grittier burnt lime (12) containing large blocks of partly burnt limestone, presumably from the last firing of the kiln (Fig. 8).
- 4.14 The kiln had a draw hole on the south-western side, between 0.4m and 0.5m wide, the first 0.7m of which were stone-lined (58 and 59). Significantly, the sooty deposit and burnt lime did not extend further than the stone lining, suggesting that some form of blocking would have been in place during the kiln's use. The draw hole continued to the south-west as an unlined gully, 0.9m wide and 0.48m deep, and extending beyond the limits of excavation, although much of the excavated length had been disturbed by a later drainage cut (06).



Plate 6 Excavated lime kiln (02) from the south-east, showing sooting in base and fire-reddening around the outside. Photo CPAT 2334-086



Plate 7 Excavated lime kiln (02) from the south-west, after the removal of soot deposits. The draw hole is visible in the foreground. Photo CPAT 2334.123

- 4.15 The soot and lime deposits within the interior of the kiln had been sealed with a series of backfill and levelling deposits (11 and 01). The lower fill (11), containing mussel shell fragments, butchered animal bone and a cess-like material, continued to the south-west within a drainage cut (06). The

drain, which was around 0.9m wide, followed the line of the earlier linear cut associated with the draw hole. It was possibly a latrine or waste outlet associated with a later building and would have flowed directly into the river to the south.

- 4.16 Surrounding the kiln structure was a thin deposit (68) of reddish-brown, mortar-flecked, silty clay, which had the appearance of a trampled, working surface contemporary with the kiln, and had been truncated by several later pits and post-holes (08, 41, 43, 45, 49 and 70).
- 4.17 Beyond the excavation and to the north of the kiln, were the standing remains of a stone-built structure, surviving to a height of around 3m, which are likely to be associated with a cottage depicted in approximately this position on the Tithe Survey. Apart from the standing northern wall, the remaining walls and interior floor surfaces had been removed, leaving only robbing trenches (14), indicating a building around 13.6m in length and 7.5m wide, the southern extent of which had truncated the upper levels of the kiln (see Fig. 8). The only feature identified in the interior was a post-hole (35), although it was not possible to determine whether this was associated with the building. A single sherd of brown-glazed Buckley-type ware, recovered from the fill (36) of the post-hole, dated the feature to the late 19th century.
- 4.18 A small number of other post-medieval features were also identified, including a rectilinear feature (64), 0.8m wide and 2.9m in length, to the west of the kiln, and two 19th-century pits (76 and 109) located in the central area of the excavation.
- 4.19 More recent activity included the construction of a brick-lined septic tank (73) towards the eastern end of the excavation, with an inlet pipe entering from the north and a corrugated clay pipe outlet (74) leading south-east towards the stream. It was evident from the nature of the internal deposits that the tank and associated drains had long fallen into disuse.

5 PREHISTORIC ARTEFACTS provisionally identified by Frances Lynch

- 5.1 A small collection of prehistoric pottery was recovered largely from the two linear gullies (16, 54) and two pits (23, 37), with additional material from the deposits 21, 26 and 27, all within close proximity to each other. In all, 87 sherds and small fragments were recovered, although most were no more than undiagnostic scraps. A small collection of lithics was also recovered, comprising a scraper and a blade (Find Nos 510 and 526), two core fragments (Find Nos 525 and 539) and three flakes (Find Nos 512, 536 and 537), found in association with the pottery in pit 37. Other residual lithic artefacts were recovered from deposits 09, 21, 28 and 29, and a single burnt stone was recovered with the pottery from gully 16.
- 5.2 Gully 16 contained several sherds of pottery from at least two vessels. A single beige/black rimsherd with deeply impressed twisted-cord decoration (Plate 8), seven small, featureless sherds and some scraps probably come from the same pot (Find Nos 554-5). The fabric contains much angular stone grit, probably also a quartz sandstone or weathered siliceous igneous rock (?microgranite), which breaks through the outer surface. The inner surface is smoother and the rim has been more carefully finished to accept decoration. Two other small sherds from the same context are from a different pot, much thinner (6mm) and fired red, with inclusions of smaller (2-3mm) rounded quartz grains with black ferric oxide minerals.
- 5.3 The shape and decoration of the rim from gully 16 and the fabric of the other sherds are consistent with the identification of the pottery as Peterborough Ware in the Mortlake style. Such pottery occurs in small quantities quite widely in Wales, especially along the north and south coasts and in the Marches. It is found within some megalithic tombs, often associated with the blocking of the chambers (e.g. Trefignath, Anglesey and Gwernvale, Powys) and in unexplained but possibly

domestic, contexts as here at Betws-yn-Rhos. Radiocarbon dates associated with Peterborough Ware suggest that it was current during the mid-Neolithic period between 3500 and 2500 cal BC, alongside other decorated styles such as Grooved Ware (Gibson 1995, 30). The Mortlake style was probably at its most popular around 3000 cal BC.

- 5.4 The slightly angled rim and the short lines of neatly twisted cord pressed into it may be compared to pots from Cefn Bryn, Gower, Ogmere and Caldey Island in the south and to vessels from Trefignath and Bryn yr Hen Bobl in Anglesey and Four Crosses in Powys (Gibson 1995, Figs 2, 5, 6 and 7). It is impossible to be certain of the shape of the complete pot, but it should have had a gently rounded base and to have been quite extensively decorated on the body, though none of the other sherds present shows evidence of such decoration.
- 5.5 Pit 23 contained four sherds of Early Neolithic pottery, in a dark vesicular fabric, one sherd being possibly a partial rim or shoulder (Find No. 546). Five scraps in a thinnish pale pink fabric, possibly originating from the later Beaker (Early Bronze Age) period, were also recovered (Find No. 508).
- 5.6 A total of 27 sherds and scraps were recovered from pit 37, together with associated lithics (see 5.1). The upper fill (32) contained seven pottery fragments in a dark vesicular fabric, similar to that from pit 23, possibly 'Irish Seaware' of Early Neolithic date (Find Nos 524 and 538). A single sherd of a similar fabric, with traces of a deposit adhering to the internal surface, was recovered from the secondary fill (34), along with two grittier scraps of a typical Middle Neolithic type fabric (Find No. 514). A further 17 fragments of Peterborough (Mortlake) type ware were recovered from the primary fill (33) (Find Nos 511, 521 and 541).
- 5.7 The basal fill (55) of gully 54 contained one body sherd with a decorated stab mark (Find No. 551), possibly by a finger nail, and a further four featureless sherds and several scraps (Find Nos 534 and 547). The sherds were in two fabrics, both fairly thick (10-14mm), rather poorly fired and heavily gritted with angular pieces of rock up to 5mm across. The darker fabric contains conspicuous pieces of white vein quartz, while the other has a beige/pink outer surface and contains a darker rock, possibly a quartz sandstone. Residual fragments of the latter were also recovered from the deposits 21, 26 and 27.



Plate 7 Neolithic pottery, including decorated rim (Find No. 555). Photo CPAT 2334.141

- 5.8 Several sherds of Beaker pottery were recovered from deposit 27 (Find no. 545), all of which were in relatively good condition, some with bar chevron or hyphenation decoration. The sherds appear to represent a small proportion of the same vessel (Plate 8).



Plate 8 Decorated Beaker from context 27 (Find No. 545). Photo CPAT 2334-142

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The excavations have revealed significant evidence of several phases of activity on the site from the Early Neolithic period until the present day. Although the initial archaeological interest in the development plot focused on the potential for medieval activity along the street frontage, the excavations have uncovered important, if rather enigmatic, evidence for prehistoric activity, comprising a series of pits and gullies with associated artefacts dating from the Early and Middle Neolithic to the Early Bronze Age. Although the nature of the activity is uncertain, and there are no features which directly indicate habitation or permanent occupation of the site, it is interesting that a small area should have been the focus of activity over such a long period.
- 6.2 No prehistoric finds have been recorded previously from Betws-yn-Rhos, but a famous hoard of experimental bronze palstaves was found on the slopes of Moelfre Uchaf, some 2km south-west of the village centre, suggesting that bronze smiths at the forefront of technological change were living in the vicinity some 1400 years later (Lynch *et al* 2000, 103). Although the evidence is tenuous, these new finds of Early and Middle Neolithic pottery suggest that occupation may have begun around 3500 cal BC and continued through to the Early Bronze Age, here represented by the finely decorated Beaker ware.
- 6.3 The 2004 evaluation revealed evidence for medieval occupation along the street frontage, comprising the remains of a timber building, with sill beams laid in a slot at the northern end and resting on a sleeper wall to the south, levelling the sloping ground. A second slot may have been a drainage gully associated with the building, or possibly part of an earlier sill-beam structure. These features were sealed beneath a layer containing 16th-century pottery.
- 6.4 Another unexpected discovery was the base of a limekiln which, although undated at present, is thought likely to date from the post-medieval period. The surviving structure of the limekiln suggests that it was a fairly basic type known as a 'flare kiln', which was commonly used for small-scale agricultural lime burning, as well as small construction projects from the Roman period until the 19th century. The kiln would have been loaded with limestone from the top, the roughly hewn blocks being placed to form an arch over the base of the kiln, leaving a void into which wood was placed to fuel the kiln. The burnt lime is likely to have been unloaded from the top to prevent the lime becoming contaminated with ash (Williams 1989, 11). Although there was no artefactual evidence to date the kiln it is intended to submit a sample of charcoal for radiocarbon dating.
- 6.5 More recent occupation included a stone-built cottage which had partly truncated the limekiln, the surviving remains of which were limited to a standing section of one gable wall and robber trenches indicating the position of the remaining walls.
- 6.6 The potential of the site archive is discussed in Appendix 2 and it is intended to undertake further detailed post-excavation analysis, including specialist reporting and dating, leading to a final publication in an appropriate regional journal in due course.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 7.1 The writer would like to thank the following people for their assistance during the project: Mr J Jones and Mr D Fishwick; Mr N Jones, and Mr R Silvester, CPAT; Afon Bognar, Ian Davies and George Luke; Mrs F Lynch Llewellyn for the analysis of the pottery; and Mr M Walters, of the Curatorial section of CPAT.

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Cartographic sources

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Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 1:2500, 1900

Ordnance Survey 3rd Edition 1:2500, 1913

1983 Soil Survey of England and Wales map (Sheet 2 - Wales) and Legend (1:250,000 scale)

1994 British Geological Survey map of Wales (Solid edition at 1:250,000 scale)

APPENDIX 1

PROJECT ARCHIVE

Site archive

4 A1 site plans

2 A2 site plans

2 black and white negative films

2 colour slide films

76 context record forms

photographic catalogue

context register

drawings register

finds register

7 levels record forms

Specification, brief and correspondence

Digital site plan – llais07.pmw (Penmap survey software)

Contexts Register

Context	Type	Comment
1	Fill	Fill of kiln 02
2	Kiln	Circular stone-built structure
3	Fill	Burnt lining within the construction cut 04 for the kiln
4	Cut	Construction cut for kiln 02
5	Fill	Fill of 06
6	Linear cut	Post-dates the kiln flue. Filled by 05
7	Fill	Fill of 08
8	Pit	Cuts the kiln lining (03) to the north
9	Deposit	Above 10
10	Deposit	Below 09, natural riverine deposit
11	Fill	Fill of kiln 02 below 01
12	Fill	Fill of kiln 02 below 11
13	Fill	Fill of kiln 02 below 12
14	Trench	Foundation trench for post medieval cottage wall
15	Fill	Fill of 16
16	Linear cut	Filled by 15, neolithic
17	Trench	2004 evaluation trench
18	Deposit	Deposit, natural riverine deposit truncated by construction cut (04) - kiln
19	Deposit	Soot and charcoal deposit in base of kiln 02, below 13
20	Stone layer	Burnt limestone in base of kiln 02
21	Deposit	Above 27
22	Fill	Fill of 23
23	Pit	Cut, small pit on the northern edge of the evaluation trench. neolithic
24	Deposit	Soil rich deposit, probably hillwash. Above 25 and cut by 23
25	Deposit	Natural riverine deposit underlying 24, north of evaluation trench.
26	Deposit	Stoney hillwash deposit overlying 27
27	Deposit	Riverine deposit, band of large stone, above 65 & overlying Neolithic
28	Deposit	Riverine deposit within natural feature
29	Deposit	Similar to 28
30	Deposit	Riverine deposit of large rounded stones below 29

31	Deposit	Fine hillwash, contemporary with 26, below 09
32	Fill	Fill of pit 37, above 33
33	Fill	Fill of pit 37, below 32
34	Fill	Fill of pit 37. Gravel layer below 32 and slumped over 33
35	Post hole	Filled by 36
36	Fill	Fill of post hole 35
37	Pit	Filled by 32, 33 and 34
38	Fill	Fill of post hole 39
39	Post hole	Filled by 38
40	Fill	Fill of post hole 41
41	Post hole	Filled by 40
42	Fill	Fill of post hole 43
43	Post hole	Filled by 42
44	Fill	Fill of post hole
45	Post hole	Filled by 44
46	Fill	Fill of pit 47 – charcoal rich with fire cracked stones
47	Pit	Filled by 46
48	Fill	Fill of 49
49	Pit	Filled by 48
50	Fill	Fill of post hole 51
51	Post hole ?	Filled by 50
52	Fill	Fill of 54, above 55
53	Fill	Fill of 54, below 55
54	Linear feature	Filled by 52 and 53, 55, neolithic
55	Fill	Fill of 54, below 52 and above 53
56	Fill	Fill of pit 57
57	Pit	Filled by 56, cuts 54, neolithic
58	Wall	Wall forming W side of kiln draw hole
59	Wall	Wall forming E side of kiln draw hole
60	Foundation cut	Cut for wall 58
61	Foundation cut	Cut for wall 59
62	Fill	Fill within lime kiln 04
63	Fill	Fill of gully 64
64	Gully	Filled by 63, cuts 09
65	Deposit	Below 27
66	Deposit	Similar to 10, but coarse. Riverine deposit pre-dating Neolithic features
67	Deposit	Below 66, fine sandy silt
68	Deposit	Ground surface to S, SE and E of kiln
69	Fill	Fill of Post Medieval pit 70
70	Pit	Filled by 69
71	Deposit	Buff sandy silt overlying parts of 72, eastern extent of the site
72	Deposit	Possible metallated surface constructed from river rounded stone
73	Structure	20 th century brick constructed cess tank
74	Structure	Corrugated clay drainage pipe, associated with 73
75	Fill	Fill within Post Medieval pit 76
76	Pit	19 th century pit

Drawings Register

No	Scale	Contexts	Sheet No.	Comment
1	1:10	05, 06	2	SSW-facing section of 6
2	1:10	01, 04	1	S-facing section of kiln
3	1:10	07, 08	1	NW-facing section
4	1:10	22, 23	1	S-facing section
5	1:10	30	1	W-facing section
6	1:10	32, 33, 34, 37	1	S-facing section
7	1:10	35	1	E-facing section
8	1:10	28	2	NE-facing section
9	1:20		3	Area A part excavated
10	1:10	41	1	N-facing section
11	1:10	43	1	N-facing section
12	1:20		4	Area A south
13	1:10	45	1	N-facing section
14	1:10	48,49	2	N-facing section
15	1:10	16	1	SE-facing section
16	VOID			VOID
17	VOID			VOID
18	1:10	54, 56	2	NNW-facing section
19	1:10	02, 03, 04	2	SSE-facing section through kiln
20	1:10	63, 64	2	SE-facing section
21	1:10	63, 64	2	SE-facing section
22	1:20	26, 27, 65, 66	4	W-facing section of baulk in Area A
23	1:20		5	Area A post-excavation plan, prehistoric features
24	1:10	51	2	NE-facing section
25	1:10	54	2	SSE-facing section
26	1:20	02	6	Post-excavation plan of kiln

Finds Register

Find No	Context	Type	Comment
500	05	Animal tooth	
501	19	Charcoal sample	Base of kiln
502	01	Bone, shell	
503	12	Animal bone	
504	12	Animal bone	
505	13	Animal bone	
506	03	Animal tooth	
507	07	Stone	Fire-cracked limestone
508	22	Prehistoric pottery	
509	22	Soil sample	100% sample
510	33	Flint	Scraper
511	33	Prehistoric pottery	
512	34	Flint	Flake
513	28	Flint	Flake
514	34	Prehistoric pottery	
515	29	Charcoal sample	
516	29	Flint	
517	36	Post-med pottery	Buckley-type

518	19	Charcoal sample	100% sample
519	11	Animal bone, shell	
520	01	Animal bone, shell	
521	33	Prehistoric pottery	
522	33	Soil sample	Primary pit fill
523	42	Bottle glass	
524	32	Prehistoric pottery	
525	32	Flint	Core fragment
526	34	Flint	Blade
527	33	Stone	Polished?
528	46	Soil sample	
529	55	Charcoal sample	
530	53	Charcoal sample	
531	20	Soil sample	Floor of kiln
532	27	Soil sample	
533	63	Slag?	
534	55	Prehistoric pottery	
535	26	Prehistoric pottery	
536	33	Flint	Flake
537	32	Flint	Flake
538	32	Prehistoric pottery	
539	34	Flint	Core
540	33	Charcoal sample	
541	33	Prehistoric pottery	
542	27	Prehistoric pottery	
543	15	Prehistoric pottery	
544	21	Flint	Flake
545	27	Prehistoric pottery	
546	22	Prehistoric pottery	
547	55	Prehistoric pottery	
548	21	Prehistoric pottery	
549	09	Flint	Core
550	46	Soil sample	
551	55	Prehistoric pottery	
552	55	Prehistoric pottery	
553	55	Prehistoric pottery	
554	15	Prehistoric pottery	
555	15	Prehistoric pottery	

Lithics catalogue

Find No	Context	Type	Number	Comment
510	33	Scraper	1	
512	34	Flake	1	
513	28	Flake	1	
516	29	Fragment	1	
525	32	Core fragment	1	
526	34	Blade	1	
536	33	Flake	1	
537	32	Flake	1	

539	34	Core	1	
544	21	Flake	1	
549	09	Core	1	

Prehistoric pottery catalogue

Context	Find No	No sherds	Weight (g)	Comment
15	543	2	1	Beaker?
15	554	7	12	Body sherds, part of 555
15	555	1	9	Peterborough (Mortlake) rim with fine twisted cord
21	548	2	6	Sherds with red/pink surface similar to 547
22	508	5	3	Scraps of thinnish pale pink fabric, possible Beaker
22	546	4	8	Partial rim or shoulder, Early Neolithic
26	535	1	1	Scrap
27	542	1	1	Pale pink scrap
27	545	21	37	Several sherds of bar chevron decorated Beaker
32	524	6	5	Scraps, possibly similar to 546
32	538	1	2	
33	511	12	8	Small scraps, possibly of 555
33	521	3	4	Scraps
33	541	2	4	Gritty sherd and a scrap
34	514	3	7	1 sherd with internal deposit, possibly Early Neolithic. 2 grittier scraps ? mid Neolithic
55	534	1	2	Scrap
55	547	4	29	Sherds with red/pink surface and hint of impressed decoration. Peterborough
55	551	1	11	Peterborough body sherd with stab mark ? finger nail
55	552	2	11	Similar to 534
55	553	8	4	Scraps

Samples catalogue

Find No	Context	Material	Number of bags	Comment
501	19	Charcoal	1	Base of kiln
509	22	Soil	3	100% sample, neolithic pit
515	29	Charcoal	1	Riverine deposit post-dating deposit 27
518	19	Charcoal	1	100% sample, base of kiln
522	33	Soil	3	Primary pit fill, neolithic
528	46	Soil	1	Part of 100% sample, charred pit (excavated 2007)
529	55	Charcoal	1	Secondary fill of neolithic gully 54
530	53	Charcoal	1	Primary fill of neolithic gully 54
531	20	Soil	1	Floor of kiln
532	27	Soil	2	Charcoal rich sample. Deposit sealed Neolithic features
540	33	Charcoal	1	Primary fill of neolithic pit 37
550	46	Soil	1	Part of 100% sample, charred pit (excavated 2004)

APPENDIX 2

POST-EXCAVATION RESEARCH DESIGN

Summary of proposals

The preliminary assessment of the site archive has now been completed according to the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991), and an interim report has been produced summarising the results from the excavation (see main report).

Assessment of archaeological potential

The results from the preliminary assessment have demonstrated that the site archive has considerable potential for revealing significant information which could aid the interpretation of the site and further advance the understanding of occupation in the region during the prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval periods. The research potential is summarised below:

Site archive

The drawn and written record contains the primary data relating to the site and further analysis will be required to integrate these data with information from the artefactual record in order to produce a phased model of the archive. The general lack of stratigraphic sequences means that the dating and relationship of features depends to a large extent on the artefactual evidence and the integration of this information with the drawn and written record is crucial to the understanding of the site as a whole.

Artefactual record

The excavations produced a significant assemblage of artefacts which are summarised in Appendix 1, including over 80 sherds and small fragments of prehistoric pottery, largely from stratified deposits. The preliminary assessment has indicated that the assemblage contains a number of significant diagnostic and datable sherds which will require the services of a specialist to identify and report on the prehistoric pottery.

Radiocarbon dating

A total of six charcoal samples were taken from a range of contexts, including two from the Neolithic gully 54, one from pit 37, one from deposit 27 and three from the limekiln. Radiocarbon dating of a number of samples from key contexts has the potential for complementing the artefactual evidence and assisting with phasing the site, particularly in relation to the phases of prehistoric occupation and the dating of the limekiln.

Palaeoenvironmental record

A number of bulk samples were taken from contexts likely to preserve palaeoenvironmental remains in the form of pollen and plant macro fossils. Specialist analysis has the potential for providing information on the fauna and flora of the site and its environs which will be of regional importance.

Conservation

It is not anticipated that any objects will require further conservation other than storage in a stable environment.

Proposed work programme

The anticipated work programme includes the following elements:

- 1 *Administration*

Project management, the production of a summary report for *Archaeology in Wales 2007*, and the updating of the CPAT website.

2 *Site Archive*

More detailed studies of the drawn and written records, integrating dating and artefactual evidence, to produce a phased interpretation of the archaeology.

3 *Artefact analysis*

Detailed studies by the following specialists. A series of short specialist reports and identifications will be produced which will focus on the identification, dating, and significance of the artefacts.

Prehistoric pottery	Frances Lynch
Lithics	George Smith

4 *Radiocarbon dating*

The submission of up to four samples for radiocarbon dating at Beta Analytic Inc., Miami, Florida, USA. The charcoal will be identified by the Palaeo-environmental Research Unit, Manchester, prior to submission for dating.

5 *Palaeoenvironmental analysis*

Samples were recovered from a number of significant contexts which may provide palaeoenvironmental data relating to the site and its environs. A preliminary assessment of the samples will be undertaken by Dr Fiona Grant to determine the potential for further studies of pollen and macrofossil remains. At this stage a contingency estimate has been included to cover full analysis and reporting, although the costings may be revised following the preliminary assessment. Samples will be processed by the Palaeo-environmental Research Unit, Manchester, and subsequently analysed by Dr Fiona Grant.

6 *Publication*

Production of final excavation report, written by the excavator, Ian Grant, with the assistance of Nigel Jones, for publication in an appropriate regional or national journal.

7 *Archive*

Deposition of site archive with HER and finds with an agreed museum.

Proposed timing

To be completed by the end of March 2008.

End products

- 1 Publication in an appropriate regional or national journal.
- 2 Summary report for *Archaeology in Wales 2007*.
- 3 Summary report on CPAT website
- 4 Site archive deposited with HER
- 5 Artefacts deposited with museum