

Ty'r Eglwys, Cilybebyll Watching Brief



Report by: Trysor

For: Roger & Diane Davies

September 2010



Ty'r Eglwys, Cilybebyll Watching Brief

By

Jenny Hall MifA & Paul Sambrook, MifA
Trysor

Trysor Project No. 2010/177

For: Roger & Diane Davies

September 2010



Cover photograph: General view of the development site

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1. Summary

Trysor undertook a watching brief at Ty'r Eglwys, Cilybebyll in September 2010. The footings for a rectangular outbuilding were mechanically excavated whilst being observed by Trysor. No archaeologically significant contexts were recorded within the trenches and no artefacts predating the 20th century were observed.

2. Acknowledgements

Trysor would like to thank the staff of the Historic Environment Record at Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust for provision of historic environment data.

3. Copyright

Trysor hold the copyright of this report and of the paper and digital archive. Further copies may be made of this report without gaining permission to reproduce but it must be noted that Figures 1 & 2 include other copyright material and should not be copied.

4. Introduction

Mr Roger Davies of Ty'r Eglwys, Cilybebyll, see figure 1, commissioned Trysor heritage consultants to prepare an archaeological written scheme of investigation for a new outbuilding being built on the site of a former outbuilding, planning application reference P/2010/0108.

The development consisted of a single storey domestic outbuilding, built between the house and the property boundary. The development plot was centred on SN7438704633. It lay approximately 10m to the southeast of a 20th century extension onto the 19th century house at Ty'r Eglwys, see figure 2.

In granting approval for the full planning application, the Local Planning Authority imposed 4 conditions on the consent; the 3rd and 4th conditions specify the actions necessary to mitigate the impact of the development on the archaeological resource. Trysor provided a Written Scheme of Investigation, see Appendix A, which concluded that an archaeological watching brief, see Appendix B, would be an appropriate level of mitigation.

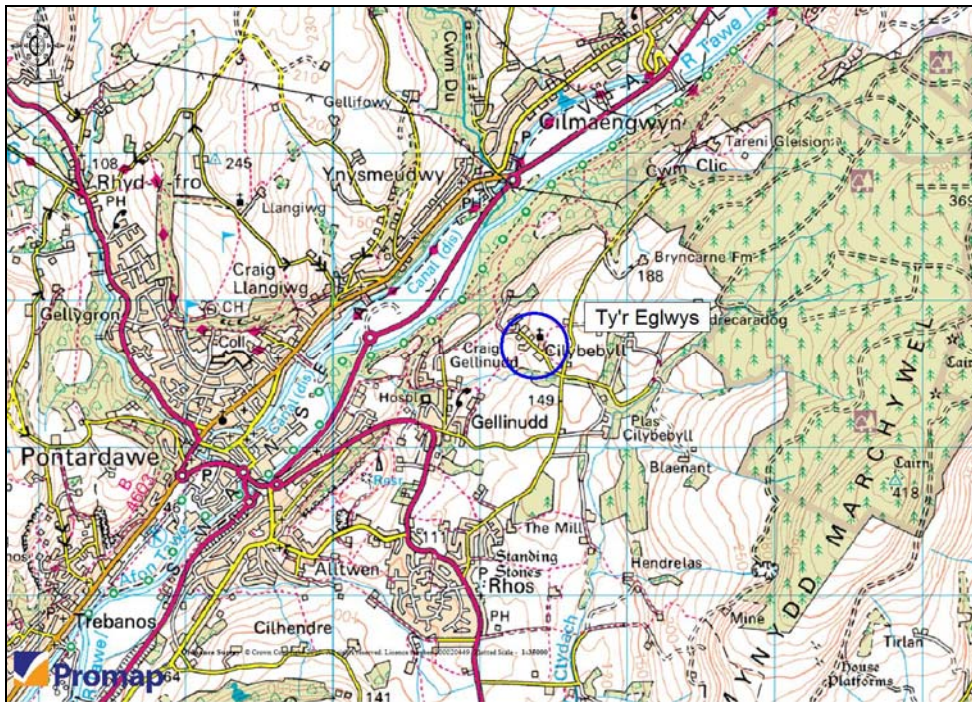


Figure 1: Location of Cilybebyll

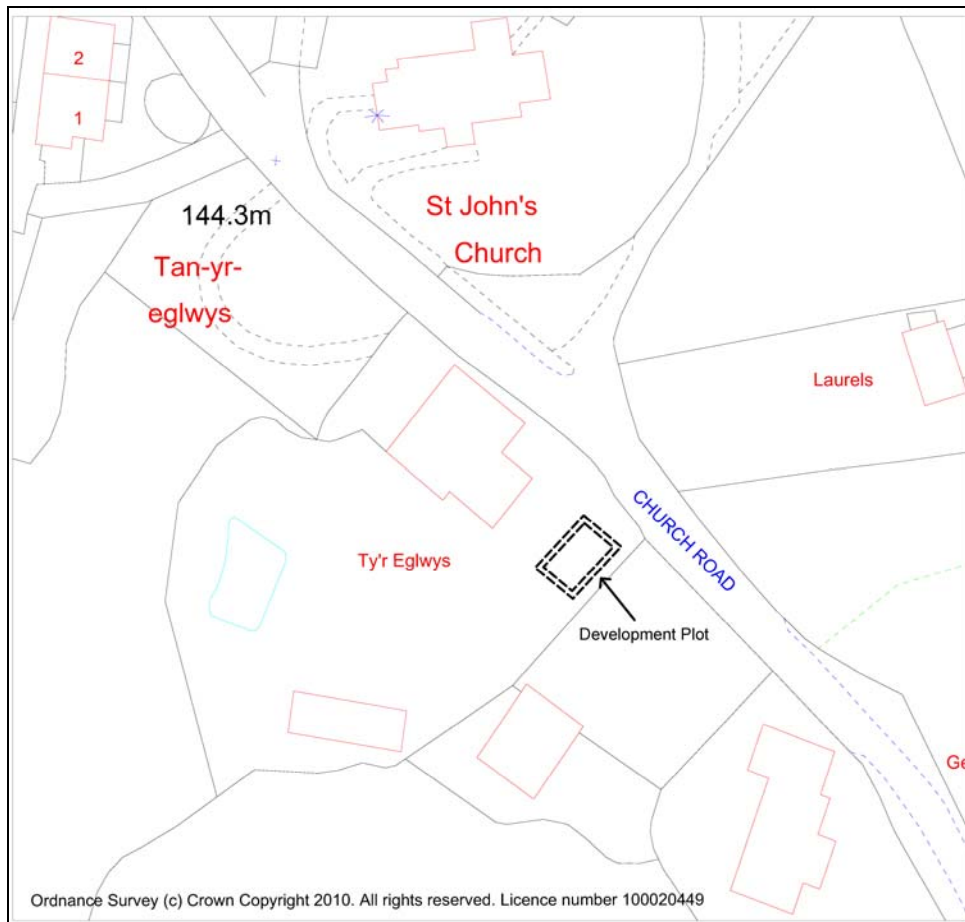


Figure 2: Location of the development plot at Ty'r Eglwys

5. Nature of the archaeological resource

The details of the known archaeological resource and Trysor's historical research are given in Appendix A, section 8

In summary, there was no known archaeological resource within the development plot, but the proximity of the area to the medieval church had given GGAT's curatorial staff reason to believe that there may be remains of medieval settlement in the plot. Trysor's historical research showed that the field to the south of the development plot was named as *Cae Fynwent*, see figure 2. This raised the possibility that at some stage in the past the *llan* or churchyard extended much further to the south and that there could be evidence of medieval Christian burial in the development plot.

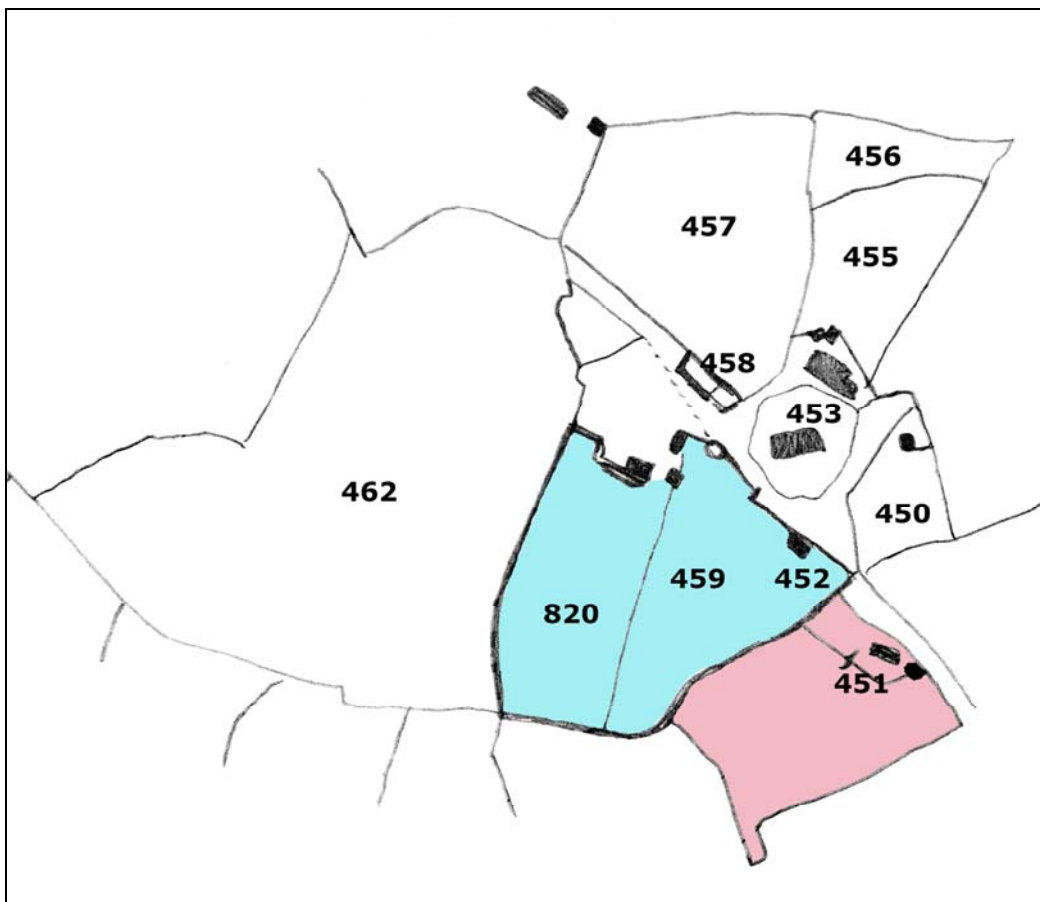


Figure 2: Cilybebyll on the tithe map, drawn c.1840. The present holding of Ty'r Eglwys is shaded in blue and Cae Fynwent in red.

6. Watching Brief

The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* on 7th September 2010. The mechanical excavation of the foundations trenches was watched by Trysor, and the stratigraphy of the site recorded. No archaeological artefacts or features other than those dating to the 20th century were found. No finds were retained.

The trenches were excavated by a mini-digger using a narrow, toothed bucket as a simple rectangular outline. The overall footprint was 9.5m northeast to southwest by 6m. The trenches were c. 0.70m wide and an average of 0.90m deep.

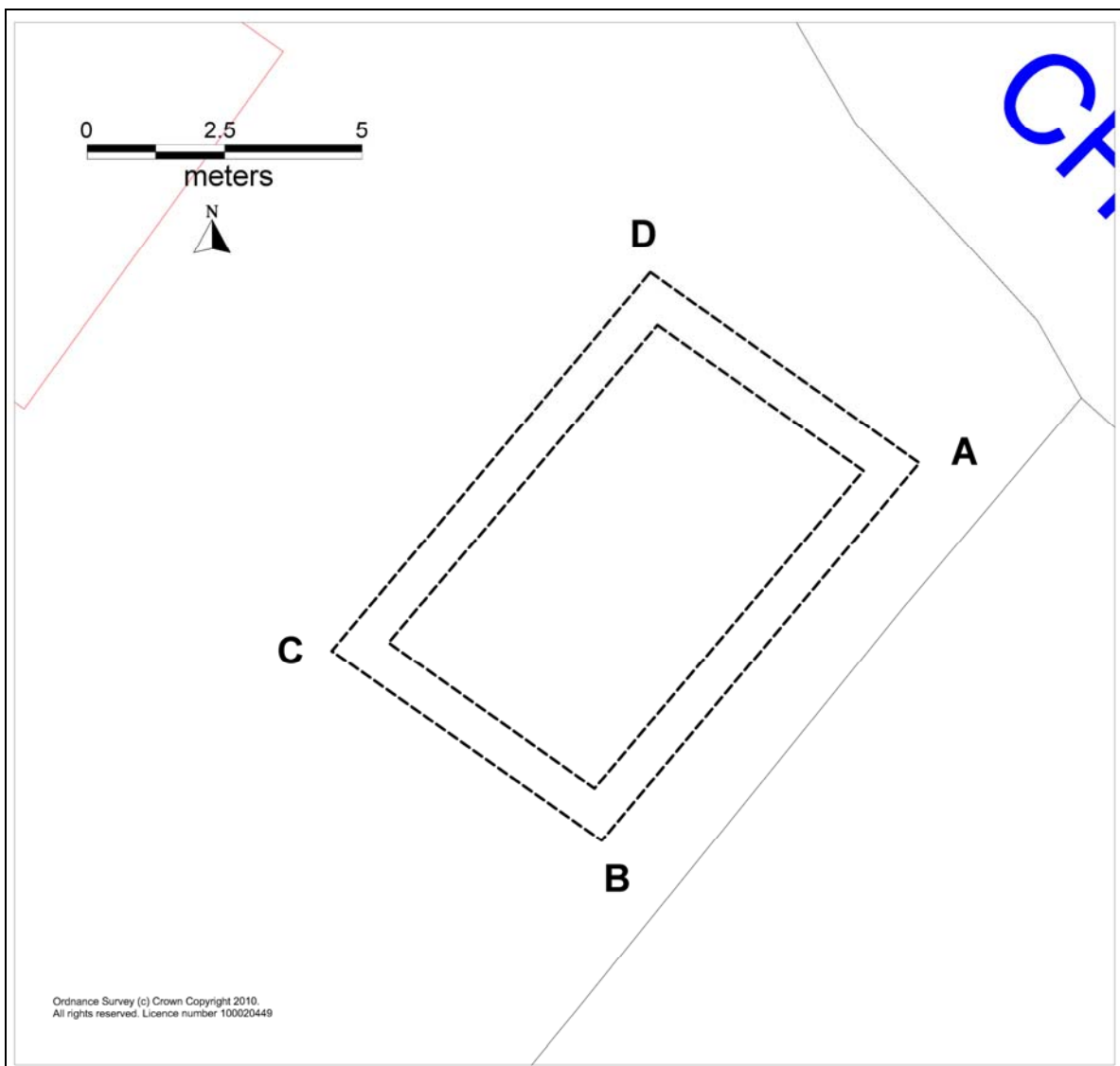


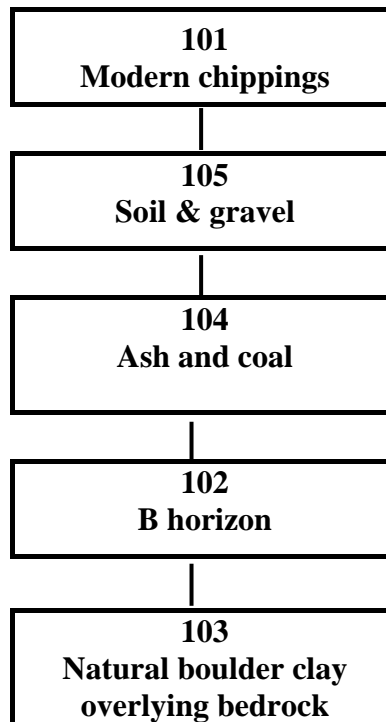
Figure 3: Trenches showing numbering of sections.

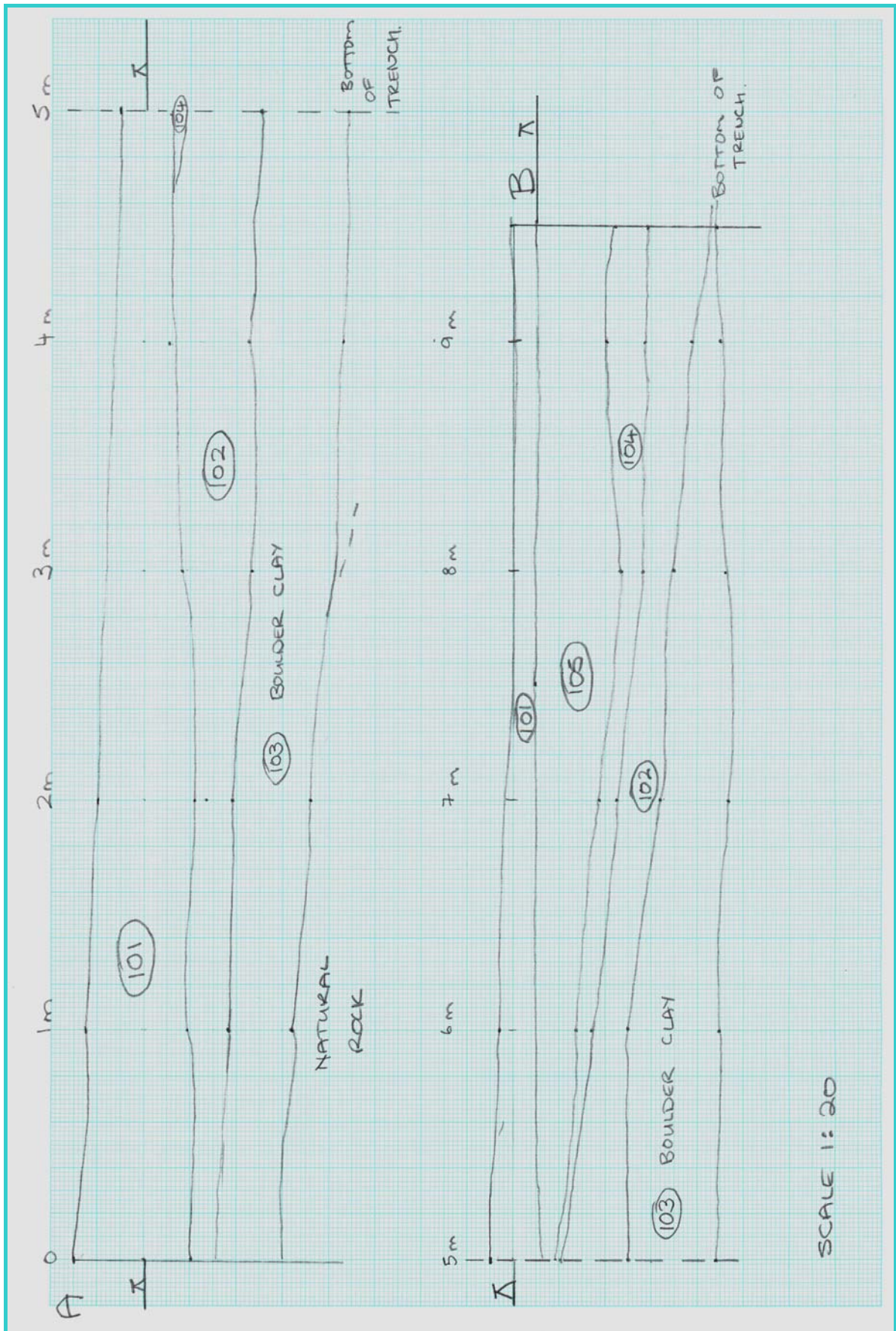
7. Site Stratigraphy

7.1 Context catalogue

Section A to B

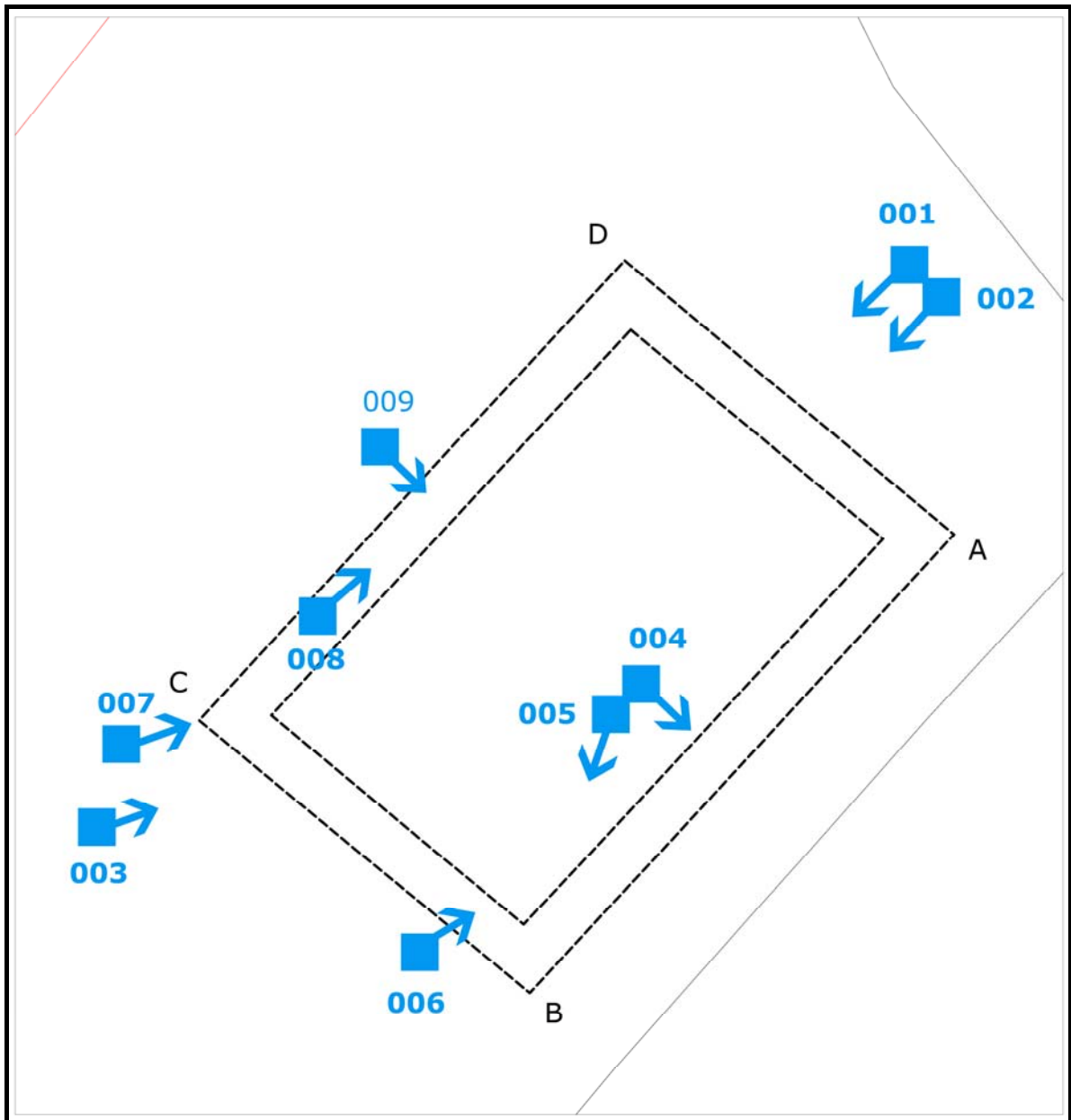
Context Number	Depth	Description	Interpretation
101	10cm – 45cm	Stone chippings	Modern chippings laid down by owner to create yard surface
102	10cm-30cm	Medium brown soil	Garden soil
103	-	Orange brown, sandy clay with small rounded stone fragments	Boulder clay overlying bedrock
104	10cm - 20cm	Ash, coal, 20 th century artefacts	Domestic ashes
105	up to 30cm	Medium brown soil with high gravel content	Recently disturbed garden soil





8. Photographs

Photo Number	Description	Date Taken	Direction
CBB001	The development area marked out.	03/06/2010	Looking southwest
CBB002	Initial levelling of the area	07/09/2010	Looking southwest
CBB003	The trench footings marked out prior to excavation	07/09/2010	Looking east northeast
CBB004	Mid point of trench section A to B	07/09/2010	Looking southeast
CBB005	Trench section A to B	07/09/2010	Looking south southwest
CBB006	Trench section A to B	07/09/2010	Looking east northeast
CBB007	Trenches almost completed	07/09/2010	Looking east northeast
CBB008	Base of trench C to D	07/09/2010	Looking northeast
CBB009	Mid point of the trench C to D	07/09/2010	Looking southeast



9. Conclusion

In conclusion, the watching brief has demonstrated that there are no deposits of archaeological significance present within the development area. All observed contexts relate to domestic activity from recent times.

10. Archive

A paper archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth including a copy of this report. The archive includes all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken. An index to the archive is included in Appendix D. Photographs are in TIFF format, following the standard required by the RCAHMW.

Further copies of the report will be supplied to Mr & Mrs Davies, and Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust.

11. Sources

Evans, EM, 2004, *Early-Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites Project, 2003-04 (Yr4)*.
GGAT Report 73

Evans EM, 1998, *Welsh Historic Churches Survey: Glamorgan and Gwent*.
GGAT Report 51/81

Regional Historic Environment Record:
PRN 00514w (Cilybebyll Medieval Churchyard Cross),
PRN 00515w (St John the Evangelist Medieval Church at Cilybebyll)
PRN 05227w (Medieval Churchyard)

Cilybebyll Parish Tithe Schedule, 1838

Cilybebyll Parish Tithe Map, c.1840

APPENDIX A

TY'R EGLWYS WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION JUNE 2010

1. Introduction

Mr Roger Davies of Ty'r Eglwys, Cilybebyll has commissioned Trysor heritage consultants to prepare an archaeological written scheme of investigation for a new outbuilding being built on the site of a former outbuilding, planning application reference P/2010/0108.

The development site is centred on SN7438704633. It lies approximately 10m to the southeast of a 20th century extension onto the 19th century house at Ty'r Eglwys.

Trysor undertook a site visit to Ty'r Eglwys 3rd June 2010.

2. The development

The development consists of a single storey domestic outbuilding, to be built between the house and the property boundary.

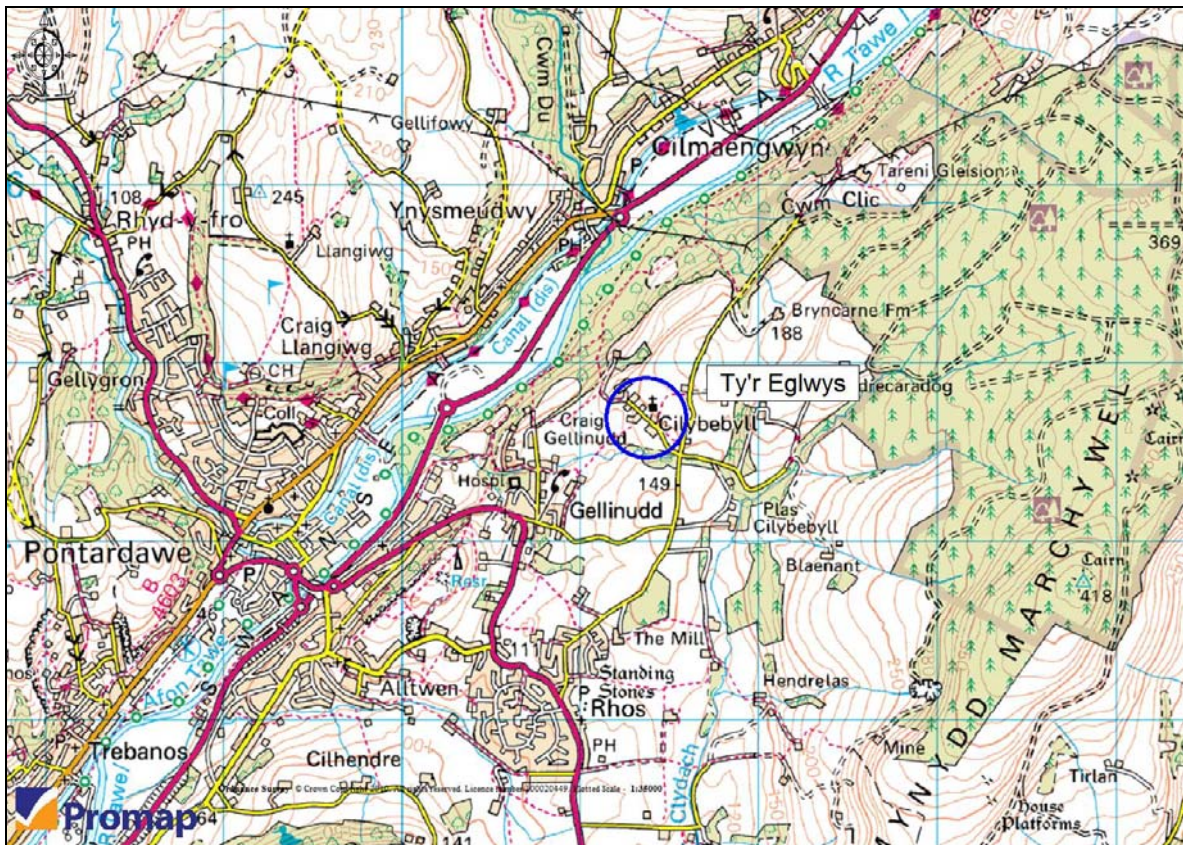


Figure 1: Location of Cilybebyll

3. Conditions on the consent

In granting approval for the full planning application, the Local Planning Authority imposed 4 conditions on the consent; the 3rd and 4th conditions specify the actions necessary to mitigate the impact of the development on the archaeological resource.

(3) No development shall take place within the application site (this would be the area of archaeological interest) until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

(4) The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to any archaeologist nominated by the local planning authority and shall allow him to observe the excavations and record items of interest and finds.

The purposes of the two conditions are “in order that a proper archaeological assessment is made of that area and the archaeological features are recorded” and “in order to allow archaeological remains to be observed and recorded.” respectively.

4. Nature of the archaeological resource

4.1 The third and fourth conditions imposed by the Local Planning Authority (LPA) gives the detail of the nature of archaeological work to be undertaken. A letter from Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust, the LPA’s archaeological advisers, gives detail as to why the conditions have been imposed. *“In the medieval period, enclosed church areas were the focus of settlement both within the enclosure, for priests and their households, and without as secular settlement establishes (sic) around the church. The nature and extent of such settlements are often, as in this case, not known, although it would have probably been minor. As the area has not been developed, there is clearly a possibility that important archaeological features of medieval date could be located inside the application area.”*

4.2 There are no archaeological sites recorded within the development area in the digital HER held by GGAT nor in Historic Wales Portal, which includes listed building and scheduled monuments data from Cadw, RCAHMW, NMW and the regional archaeological Trusts.

4.3 A search by HER staff of the GGAT HER covering an area with a radius of 300m centred on SN7438504632 returned only three records: the church (00515w), the former churchyard cross (00514w) and the graveyard (05227w), all lying within 50m to the north of the development site.

4.4 There are documentary records from the 12th century which mention the gift of the church at Cilybebyll and its tithes to Neath Abbey. This early 12th century reference to the church would appear to suggest that it is likely to be an early Norman or, quite possibly, pre-Norman foundation.

The church is listed in the 1291 Taxatio of Pope Nicholas IV as *Ecclesia De Keltbethel Appropriata Abbati De Neth*, indicating that it was at that time still a possession of the abbey, and continued to be so until the Dissolution of the Monasteries in the 16th century. Wars and uprisings in the 13th and early 14th centuries saw the Cilybebyll area attacked

several times by the Welsh and laid to waste on more than one occasion. Nothing is known of the condition of the church in this period, or of any possible settlement in its vicinity.

The present church building was substantially rebuilt in the latter part of the 19th century, although the tower dates from the dates from the 14th century and is the remnant of an earlier church building.

4.5 Changes have not only impacted on the appearance of the church building. Its surrounding churchyard has clearly changed shape and extent since the tithe survey of 1838. The sub-circular churchyard of the tithe map has been dramatically altered by the loss of a significant portion of its northern side. This is the result of a shift in the boundary between the churchyard and the Rectory, with the Rectory garden having been extended southwards into the churchyard. This appears to have happened in the second half of the 20th century, as all Ordnance Survey maps up to 1953 show the boundary in a similar position to that of the tithe map.

This modern change in the boundary of the churchyard is significant. It is a reminder that the churchyard at Cilybebyll may not be in its medieval, or earlier, position. Evidence from other areas indicates that medieval burials can be found outside the churchyards depicted on 19th or 20th century maps. For example, in the village of Eglwysrw, Pembrokeshire, medieval cist graves were excavated underneath the village roads and square, well outside the modern churchyard (Ludlow, 2003)¹. Local tradition suggests that burials were also reported during the 19th century, up to 75m outside the present churchyard.

4.6 Tithe map evidence provides a potentially significant field name for the land parcel immediately to the south of the development plot. The field numbered 451 on the tithe map (see Figure 2 below) is named as *Cae Fynwent* on the tithe schedule, which translates as Cemetery Field. The origins and significance of the name are not immediately clear, but it is important to note that the use of the term *mynwent* or cemetery is uncommon as a field name and specifically associated with a Christian burial ground. Church or glebe land is usually denoted in Welsh by names such as *Cae Llan* or *Cae'r Eglwys* (indeed, the property of Maesyllan to the east of the church may well derive its name from an association with church lands).

This field name raises the possibility that at some stage in the past the *llan* or churchyard extended much further to the south. There is therefore a possibility that evidence of medieval Christian burial could survive in the area between the modern churchyard and *Cae Fynwent*.

¹ Ludlow, N, 2003, 'St Cristiolus' Churchyard, Eglwysrw, Pembrokeshire: a Post-Conquest Cist Cemetery', *Archaeologia Cambrensis*

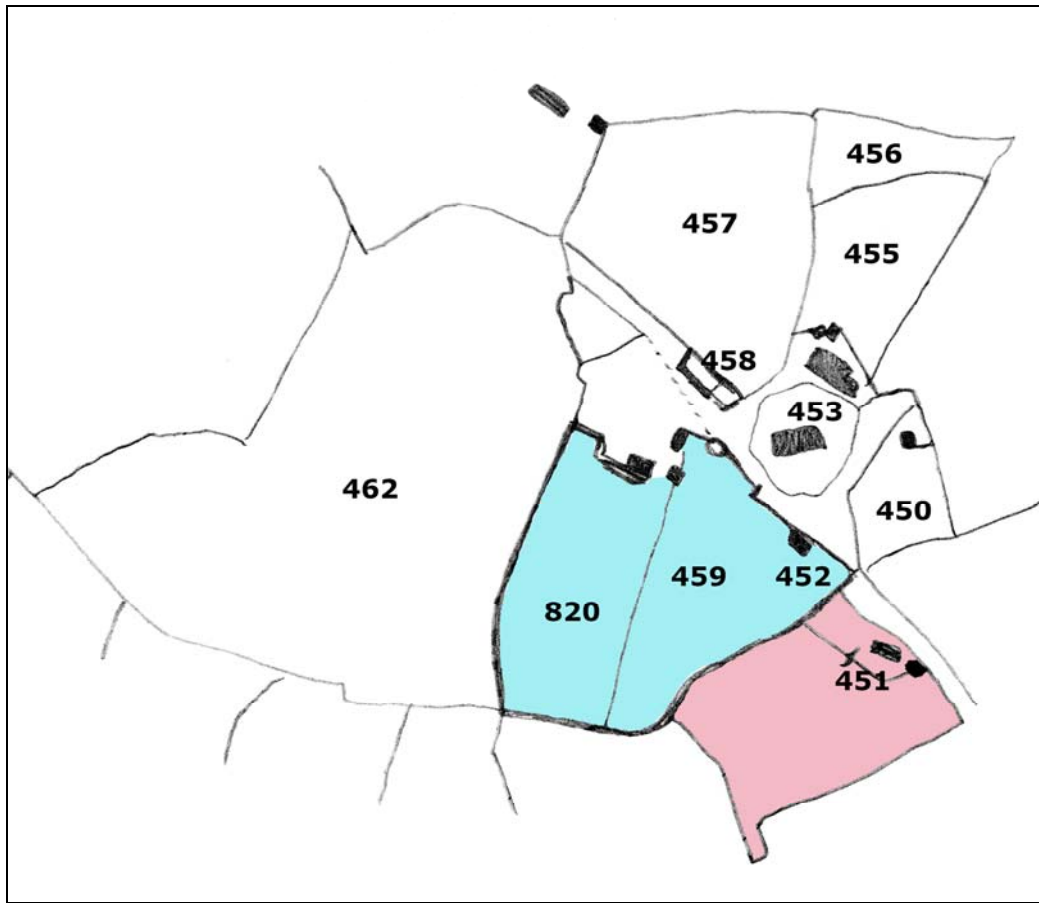


Figure 2: Cilybebyll on the tithe map, drawn c.1840. The present holding of Ty'r Eglwys is shaded in blue and Cae Fynwent in red.

4.7 According to the tithe map, *Tyr Dan yr Eglwys Farm* (the present Ty'r Eglwys) was owned by Henry Leach of Plas Cilybebyll and tenanted by a Daniel Smith. It was only a 3 acre holding, which included;

- parcel 452 House & garden
- parcel 459 Cae Uchaf
- parcel 820 Cae Isha as well as a couple of separate plots

The development plot is therefore located within parcel 452.

Parcel 451, to the southeast, was part of Gelli Nudd, owned by Rev Thomas Williams. It is named as Homestead and Cae Fynwent on the tithe schedule.

4.8 The development plot has previously been used as a garden and has also had an earlier shed built on it, which has been removed. The 1884 1:10560 Ordnance Survey map shows the area as part of a garden area attached to the dwelling, which would imply that the soil would have been cultivated for a period of time. It is not clear if a building stands on the development plot at that time, but a building is shown in this position on the 1921 and 1943 1:10560 Ordnance Survey maps. There were also several medium-sized conifers on the site until the 1980s. During Trysor's site visit, Mr Davies provided information, including photographic evidence, to show that the earlier shed and the conifers were removed by

machine over 20 years ago, with the tree roots being grubbed out. Around the same time, an extension was added to the rear of the house. Rubble created by the building work, including render taken off the external walls, was spread over the development plot area and levelled as hardcore for the present yard.

4.9 The underlying hard rock geology is very close to the surface in places; part of the garden of the property has an outcrop of rock running across the lawn. Some of the foundation trenches for the house extension were in fact rock-cut.

4.10 These are the relevant sources of information relating to the archaeology and history of the immediate area.

Evans, EM, 2004, *Early-Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites Project, 2003-04 (Yr4)*.
GGAT Report 73

Evans EM, 1998, *Welsh Historic Churches Survey: Glamorgan and Gwent*.
GGAT Report 51/81

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PRN 05227w (Medieval Churchyard)

Cilybebyll Parish Tithe Schedule, 1838

Cilybebyll Parish Tithe Map, c.1840

5. Effect of development on the archaeological resource

5.1 A written scheme of investigation has been requested by the LPA for this development due to the proximity of the site to the medieval church and the possibility that archaeological evidence of medieval settlement exists here. Trysor's historical research suggests that there may actually be a possibility that evidence of medieval burials might be found anywhere in the field parcels to the south of the church.

5.2 There are several factors which mitigate against this development impacting on buried archaeological features. Firstly, the development plot has been disturbed in the past by the construction of an earlier building and the subsequent removal of this building and the grubbing out of trees. During the field visit, it was evident that the ground surface had been raised by the spread of rubble hardcore across the site in modern times, evidenced by the build-up of yard material against the former field boundary bank along the southeastern edge of the development plot. It is not possible to assess how thick this layer of hardcore and gravel is without ground-breaking intervention. The foundation trenches for the new structure are intended to be only 600mm deep and may well not reach any undisturbed archaeological features, if any remain. However, it should be noted that the potentially loosely aggregated nature of the rubble material believed to cover the area may require the foundation trenches to be somewhat wider and deeper once ground-breaking begins.

5.3 The presence of exposed bedrock close by in the garden, and the fact that the adjacent house foundations were in part rock-cut, may indicate that there is no great depth to the stratigraphy of the site.

5.4 Trysor believe that a watching brief will be sufficient to identify and record any archaeological remains exposed by the development.

6. Field methodology

The watching brief will be carried out in accordance with Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*.

A two-person team will examine the exposed stratigraphy of the groundworks undertaken in association with the development. All trenches will be examined and features of archaeological interest recorded. Excavation of any features will be limited to that necessary to establish their extent and character, unless their excavation is required to allow the development to proceed.

7. Contingency arrangements if archaeological features are discovered

In the event that archaeological remains are encountered, where appropriate investigation falls outside the scope of this watching brief specification, a meeting between Trysor, the applicant, Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust and the Local Planning Authority case officer will be convened in order to agree a course of action.

8. Health & Safety

Trysor will undertake a risk assessment in accordance with their health and safety policy.

9. Recording

A plan of the groundworks and representative sections of the trenches will be drawn, at an appropriate scale, recording all features of archaeological interest. The plan will be based on the applicant's survey drawings of the development area.

Any artefacts will be dealt with in accordance with the guidance provided in the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*. Any artefacts will be retained, cleaned and stored. Following reporting they will be returned to the applicant.

Should any human remains be encountered, the Coroner and Regional Archaeological Trust will be immediately informed and the remains left *in situ*.

A written record of all activity will be kept and will include a continuous numbering system for all archaeological contexts. This will form part of the project archive.

Colour digital photographs will be taken, as appropriate, using a 12M pixel camera. A written record will be made on site of the photographs taken. Appropriate photographic scales will be used.

10. Reporting

A report on the watching brief will be prepared according to the requirements of Annexe 1 of the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* following the completion of the work. Copies of the report will be provided to the client, the Regional Historic Environment Record and the National Monuments Record.

11. Dissemination

A summary of the work undertaken and its findings will be submitted to Archaeology in Wales.

12. Archive

The paper archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Record, including a copy of the final report. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken. Photographs will be supplied in TIFF format in a file size greater than 11MB, following the standard required by the RCAHMW.

13. Resources to be used

Two members of staff will undertake the watching brief. They will be equipped with standard field equipment, including digital cameras, GPS and first aid kits.

Trysor have access to the computer hardware and software required to deliver the completed final report and archive to a professional standard.

14. Qualification of personnel

Jenny Hall (BSc Joint Hons, Geology and Archaeology, MifA) has 11 years excavation experience, which included undertaking watching briefs. She also has 10 years experience as a Sites and Monuments Record Manager for a Welsh Archaeological Trust. She has been an independent archaeologist since 2004 undertaking a variety of work that includes upland survey, desktop assessments and watching briefs.

Paul Sambrook (BA Joint Hons, Archaeology and Welsh, MifA, PGCE) has extensive experience as a fieldworker in Wales. He was involved with Cadw's pan-Wales Deserted Rural Settlements Project for 7 years. He has also undertaken Tir Gofal field survey work and watching briefs. He has been an independent archaeologist since 2004 undertaking a variety of work that includes upland survey, desktop assessments and watching briefs.

Trysor is a Registered Organisation with the Institute for Archaeologists.

15. Insurance & Professional indemnity

Trysor has Public Liability Insurance and Professional Indemnity Insurance.

16. Project identification

The project has been designated Trysor Project No. 2010/177

Jenny Hall & Paul Sambrook

Trysor

June 29th 2010

APPENDIX B: WATCHING BRIEF DEFINITION

According to the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* the purpose of a watching brief is:

- “• to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works
- to provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard

A watching brief is not intended to reduce the requirement for excavation or preservation of known or inferred deposits, and it is intended to guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.

The objective of a watching brief is to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on a site.”

APPENDIX C: PHOTOGRAPHS



Plate 1: CBB001 – The development area marked out, looking southwest



Plate 2: CBB002 – Initial levelling of the area, looking southwest.



Plate 3: CBB003 – Marking out the trenches, looking east northeast.



Plate 4: CBB004 – Mid point of trench section A to B, looking southeast.



Plate 5: CBB005 – Trench section A to B, looking south southwest.



Plate 6: CBB006 – Trench section A to B, looking east northeast.



Plate 7: CBB007 – Trenches almost completed, looking east northeast



Plate 8: CBB008 – Base of trench C to D, looking northeast.

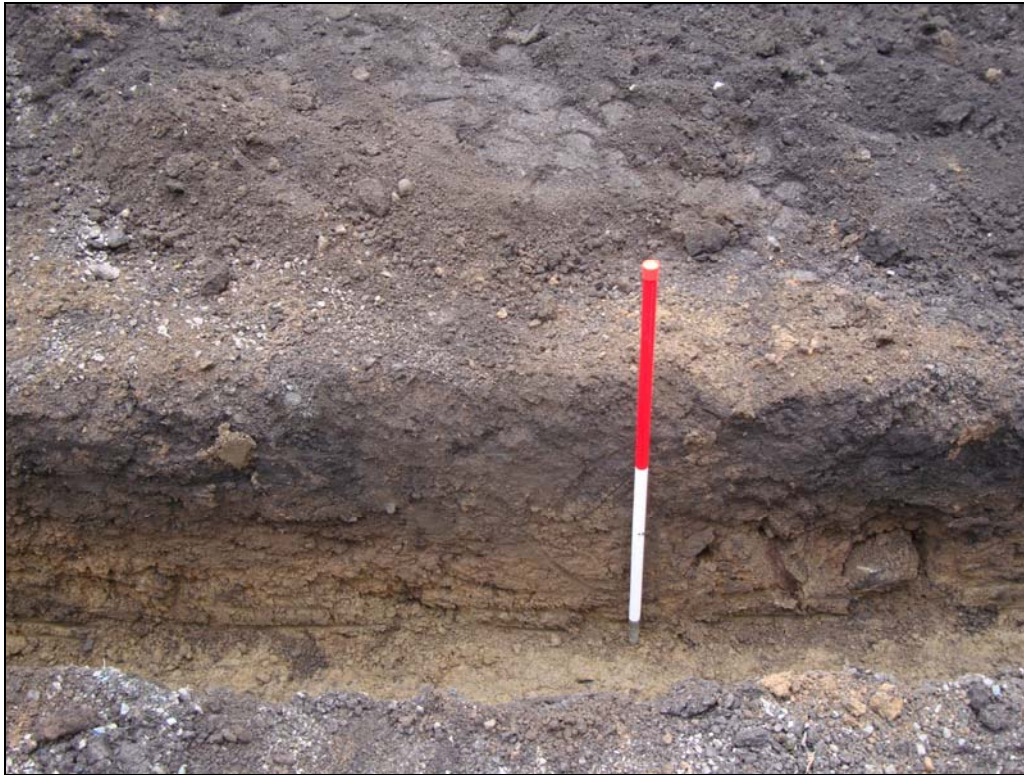


Plate 9: CBB009 – Mid point of the trench C to D, looking southeast.

APPENDIX D: INDEX TO THE ARCHIVE

1. The project specification

- 1.1 Trysor specification
- 1.2 Plan of site provided by client

2. Original Records

- 2.1 Notes written on site

3. Photographic Record

- 3.1 Index to photographs
- 3.2 Plan of location of photographs
- 3.3 Printed version of photos
- 3.4 Digital version of photographs

4. Written Report

- 4.1 Paper copy of report
- 4.2 Digital pdf version of report