

Land Adjacent to Ty Newydd Beulah, Ceredigion Watching Brief



Report by: Trysor

For: Selwyn Elias

December 2015



Land Adjacent to Ty Newydd Beulah, Ceredigion Watching Brief

By

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Trysor Project No. 2015/447

For: Mr Selwyn Elias

December 2015

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Cover photograph: Removal of topsoil, looking north northwest

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DYDDIAD 6^{ed} Rhagfyr 2015

DATE 6th December 2015

Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan bartneriad Trysor. Mae wedi ei gael yn gywir ac yn derbyn ein sêl bendith.

This report was prepared by the Trysor partners. It has been checked and received our approval.

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Croesawn unrhyw sylwadau ar gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn.

We welcome any comments on the content or structure of this report.

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Trysor is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and both partners are Members of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, www.archaeologists.net .

Jenny Hall (BSc Joint Hons., Geology and Archaeology, MCIfA) had 12 years excavation experience, which included undertaking watching briefs prior to becoming the Sites and Monuments Record Manager for a Welsh Archaeological Trust for 10 years. She has been an independent archaeologist since 2004 undertaking a variety of work that includes upland survey, desk-based appraisals and assessments, and watching briefs.

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1. Summary

1.1 In March 2015, Trysor undertook a watching brief on the topsoil stripping of an area approximately 110 metres north northwest to south southeast by 50 metres.

1.2 Two small patches of burning between the ploughsoil and the subsoil were noted, (004 and 005) but there was no dating evidence. Their origin is unknown. No other archaeologically significant features or artefacts were noted.

2. Copyright

2.1 Trysor holds the copyright of this report and of the paper and digital archive. Further paper copies may be made of this report without gaining permission to reproduce but it must be noted that Figures 2, 3 & 4 include other copyright material and should not be copied.

3. Introduction

3.1 Mr Selwyn Elias of Llys Melyn, Beulah Road, Newcastle Emlyn, Ceredigion SA38 9QA commissioned Trysor heritage consultants to provide a Written Scheme of Investigation on groundworks on a plot adjacent to Ty Newydd, Beulah, Newcastle Emlyn, planning application number: A140607.

4. The development

4.1 The development is at SN2754744035, 2.5 kilometres southwest of Beulah, Ceredigion. The development consists of a rural enterprise dwelling, new access, storage shed associated with the rural enterprise dwelling and associated works. The area of the development will be topsoil stripped before foundations excavated.

5. Conditions on the consent

5.1 Condition 15 was an archaeological condition imposed on the granting of the planning application.

No development shall take place 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.

Reason: In line with Section 23 of Welsh Office Circular 60/96 - Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology

6. Specification

6.1 Trysor prepared a written scheme of investigation which recommended that a watching brief was an appropriate course of action, see Appendix A. This was approved on 7th April 2015 by an Archaeological Planning Officer at Dyfed Archaeological Trust.

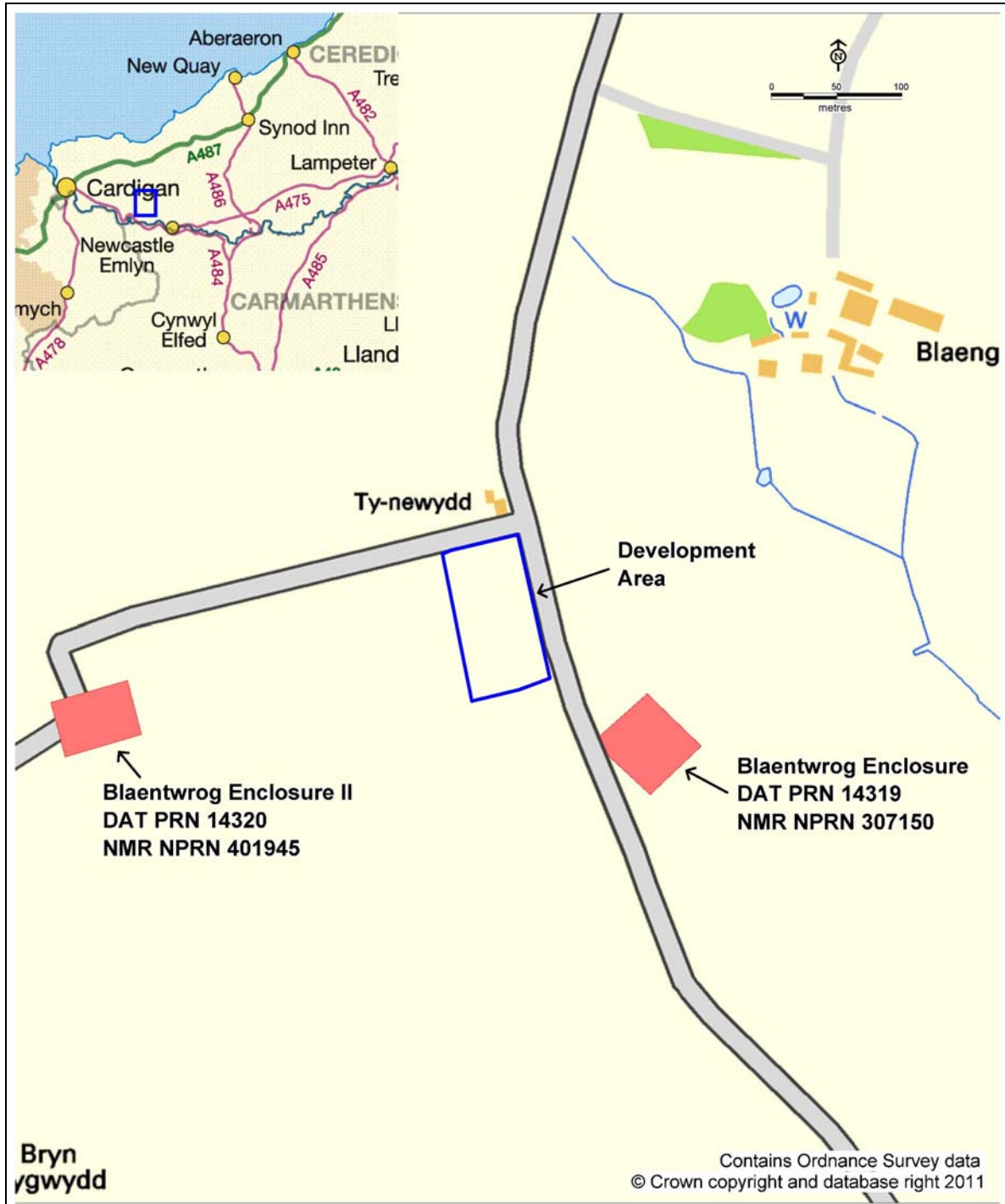


Figure 1: Location of plot to the south of Ty Newydd, Beulah, Ceredigion

7. Historical and Archaeological Overview

7.1 The development plot lies between two enclosures of unknown date identified from aerial photographs. A more detailed description of the nature of the archaeology in close proximity to the development site is described in more detail in section 3 of the specification, see Appendix A.

8. Methodology

8.1 On Friday 6th and Monday 9th March 2015, Trysor observed the removal of topsoil from the development area

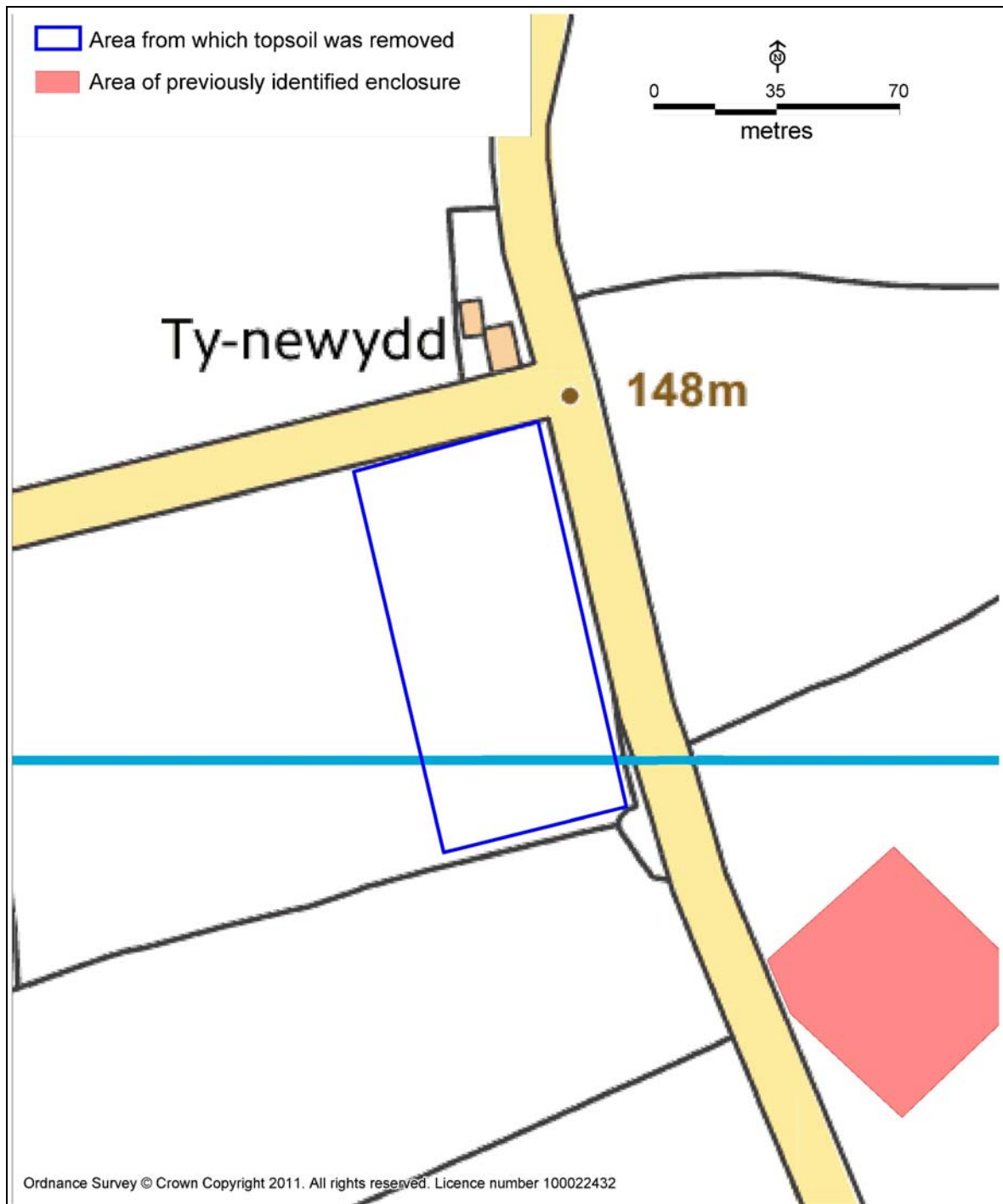


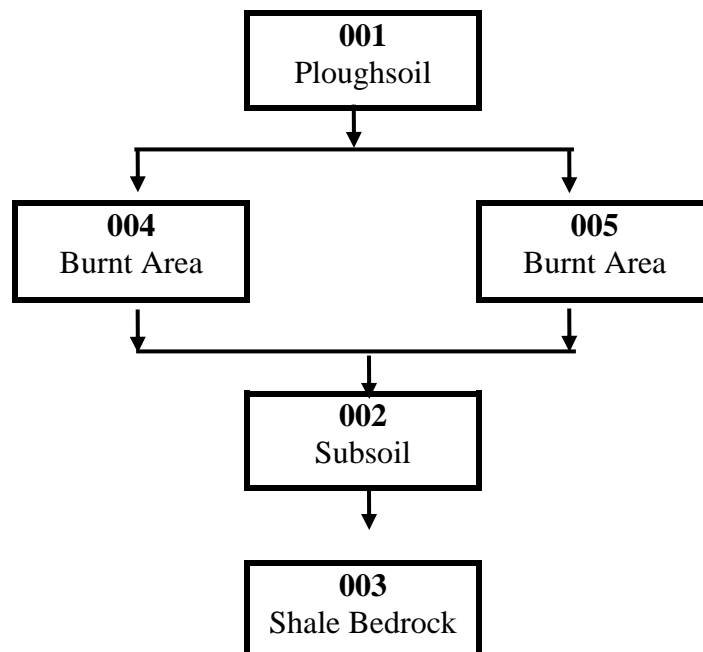
Figure 2: Development Area

9. Site Stratigraphy

9.1 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (Institute for Archaeologists, 2014). The mechanical strip of the area was watched by Trysor and the stratigraphy of the site recorded.

9.2 Context Catalogue

Context Number	Depth	Description	Interpretation
001	Up to 0.20 metres	7.5YR 3/2 friable loam	Ploughsoil
002	Less than 0.06 metres	10YR3/4 , variable depth	Thin layer of subsoil between ploughsoil and bedrock
003	-	Shale	Shale bedrock
004	0.002	Shallow, small patch of reddened soil, shale and some charcoal at SN2755844073. It was approximately 0.50 metres by 0.30 metres	Area of burning of unknown date and origin
005	0.002	Shallow, small patch of reddened soil, and some charcoal at SN2753643996, approximately 0.50 metres in diameter.	Area of burning of unknown date and origin



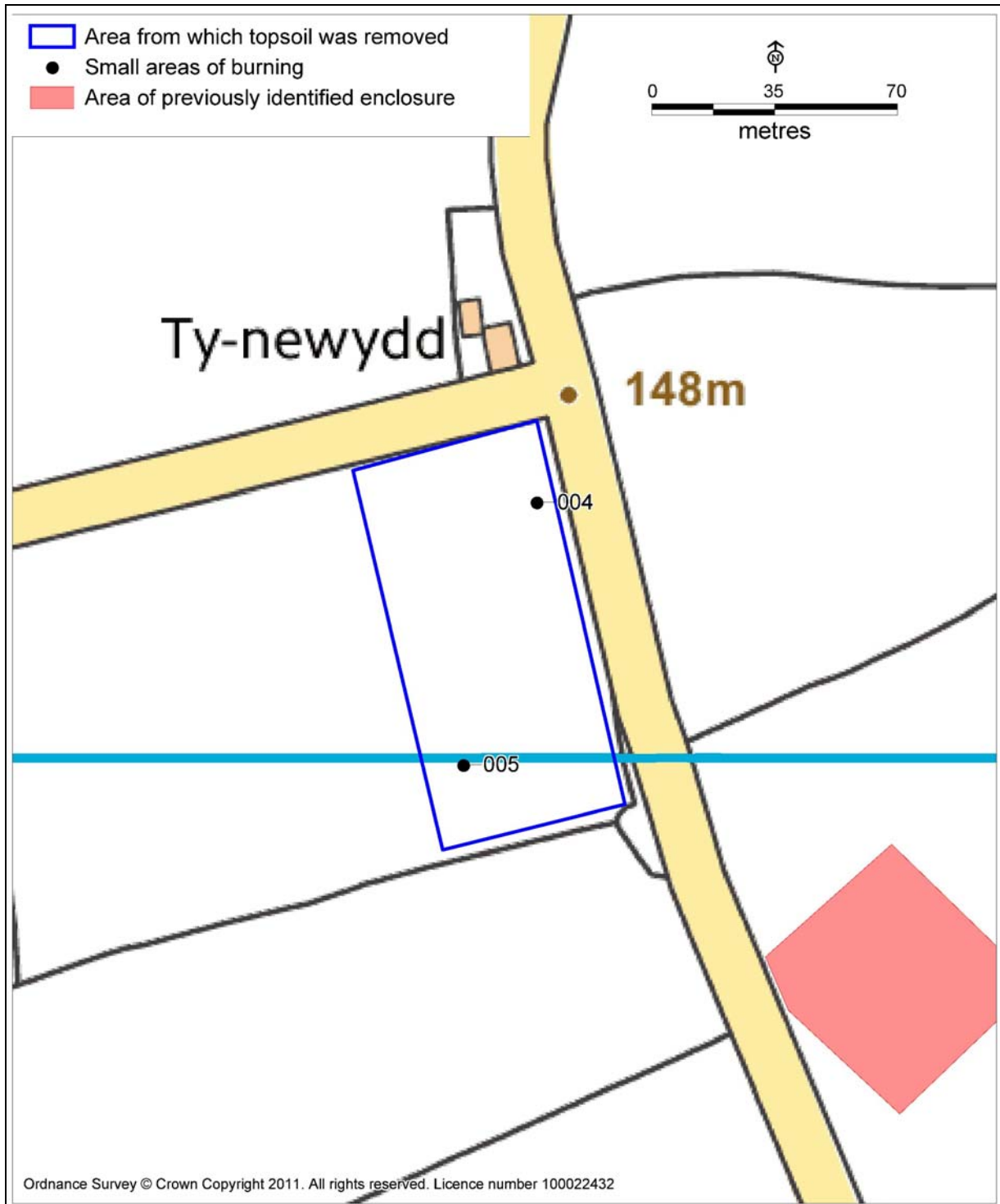


Figure 3: Location of contexts 004 & 005

10. Photographs

10.1 Colour digital photographs were taken of topsoil stripping and excavation of trenches using a 16M pixel camera. The following table describes the content of each photograph included in the project archive and their locations are provided in the following map, see Figure 4. The photographs are included in Appendix B at the end of the report.

Photo Number	Description	Date Taken	Direction
TNB2015_101	Starting stripping the ploughsoil at the southern end of the development area	06/03/2015	Looking east
TNB2015_102	Stripping the ploughsoil from the development area, the thinness of the ploughsoil is visible and the white streaks are the top of the bedrock.	06/03/2015	Looking north northwest
TNB2015_103	Stripping the ploughsoil from the development area, the thinness of the ploughsoil is visible and the white streaks are the top of the bedrock.	06/03/2015	Looking north northwest
TNB2015_104	Small patch of burning 004, below 001 and above 002	06/03/2015	Looking west southwest
TNB2015_105	Small patch of burning 005, below 001 and above 003,	09/03/2015	Looking north northwest
TNB2015_106	Eastern side of the development area, boundary bank to be breached for access,	09/03/2015	Looking north northeast
TNB2015_107	Development area fully stripped	09/03/2015	Looking north northwest

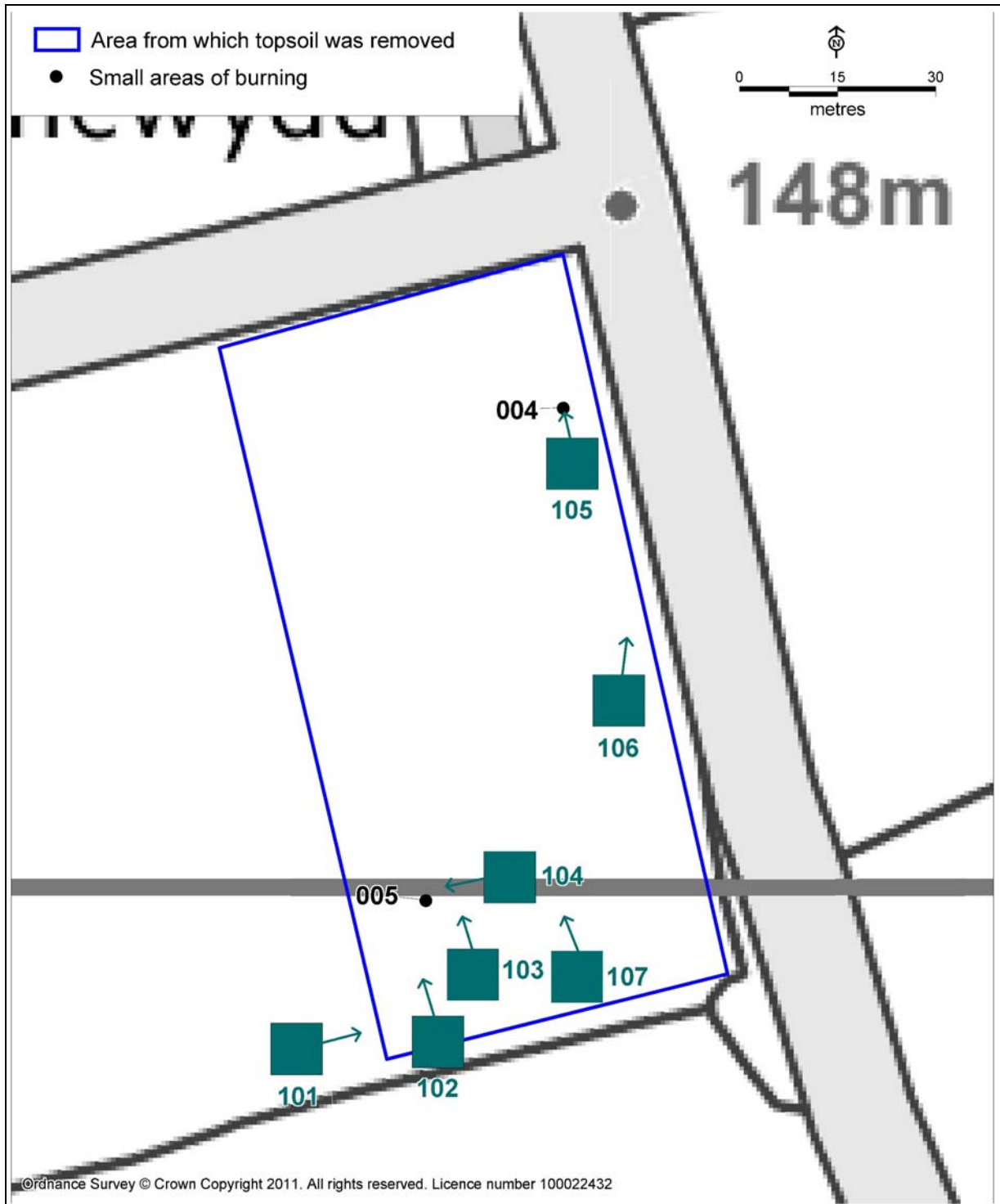


Figure 4: Location and direction of photographs

11. Conclusion

11.1 A thin layer of topsoil overlay a very thin, intermittent layer of subsoil, which occurred in pockets in the top of the underlying bedrock.

11.2 Two small areas of burning, 004 & 005, were recorded below the ploughsoil. Their origin is not known although they could be the result of some agricultural process such as ploughing in of burnt organic material.

11.3 No artefacts were recovered.

12. Archive

12.1 The archive and a copy of the report and photographs will be deposited with the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth. Photographs are in TIFF format, following the standard required by the RCAHMW.

12.2 Further copies of the report have also been supplied to the Historic Environment Record at Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Llandeilo.

13. Sources

13.1 IfA Standard and Guidance

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014 (revised), Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief, available online from the IfA website, www.archaeologists.net

LAND ADJACENT TO TY NEWYDD, BEULAH, CEREDIGION WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

Planning Application A140607

1. Introduction

Mr Selwyn Elias of Ty Newydd, Beulah, Newcastle Emlyn, Ceredigion SA38 9QS has commissioned Trysor heritage consultants to provide a Written Scheme of Investigation on groundworks on a plot adjacent to Ty Newydd, Beulah, Newcastle Emlyn, planning application number: A140607

The development is at SN2754744035 2.5 kilometres southwest of Beulah, Ceredigion.

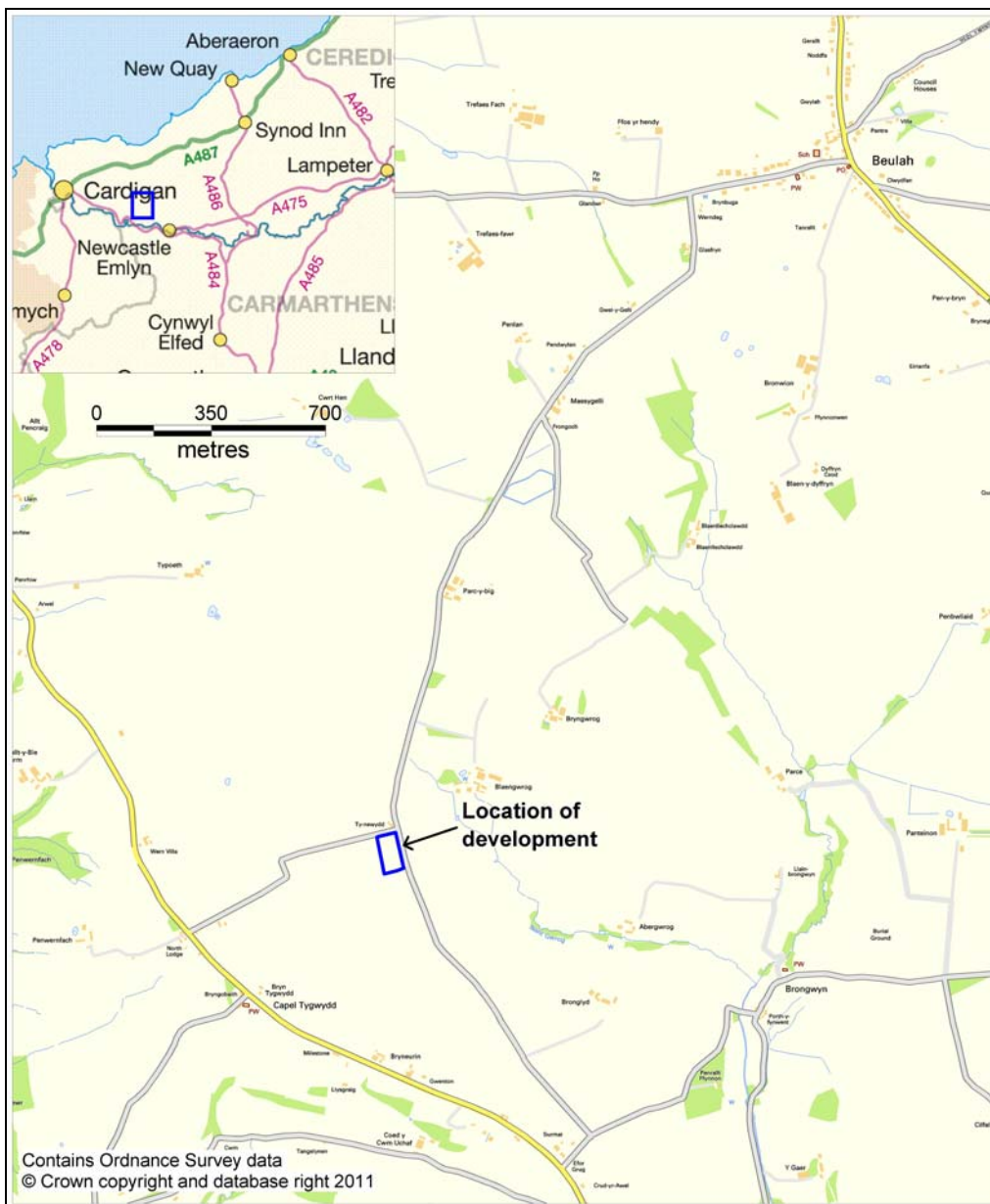


Figure 1: Location of the development site southwest of Beulah, Ceredigion

2. The development

The development consists of a rural enterprise dwelling, new access, storage shed associated with the rural enterprise dwelling and associated works. The area of the development will be topsoil stripped before foundations excavated.

3. Nature of the archaeological resource

In close proximity to the development site are two cropmark enclosures. Although nothing is now visible as an earthwork on the ground both are very clear as cropmarks on some aerial photographs when ground conditions are right.

The closest to the development site is PRN 14319, Blaentwrog Enclosure I, NPRN 307150, Blaentwrog Cropmark Enclosure, which lies 60 metres to the southeast of the southeast corner of the development site. The enclosure is situated on level ground with the land falling away east of it into the Nant Gwrog valley. It is defined by a sharply delineated ditch although there is a gap of about 27 metres in the southeast side. Overall it measures 57 metres, northwest to southeast, by 54 metres, southwest to northeast, with right angled corners. There may be associated features within it and around it but they are not as clear. This rectangular cropmark underlies the current field system, and would appear to underlie the field system shown on the Llandygwydd parish tithe map as well. Its northwestern corner is clipped by the road running north west to south southeast to its west.

The dating of the enclosure is unknown but it is obviously earlier than the field system, laid out by the 1840s. According to the landowner, across much of this area around Beulah, topsoil/ploughsoil overlies hard rock, although there are occasional pockets of sand in the solid geology. The rock close to the south may account for the sharp delineation of the ditches, cut through the bedrock.

The second enclosure, PRN 14320, Blaentwrog II, NPRN 401945 Capel Tygwydd, Cropmark Enclosure North Of, is another rectangular enclosure, this time on ground that is gently sloping to the west, 250 metres to the west of the development site. Again a clearly-defined cropmark ditch with sharp, right-angled corners underlies the current field system. It measures 60 metres by 40 metres. An entrance is not visible but it could have been in the south, west or north sides where the field boundaries or the road cut across it.

At the southeast corner of the development plot a quarry is shown on the 1st and 2nd edition maps, the northernmost of several small quarries within a 1 kilometre area, which reinforces the information from the landowner and the sharp definition of the

PRN – Unique identifier under which the site is recorded in the regional Historic Environment Record.

NPRN - Unique identifier under which the site is recorded in the National Monuments Record.

4. Impact of the Development on the Resource

The development lies between two cropmark, rectangular enclosures. The date and purpose of these enclosures is unknown but both are earlier than the current field and road network and it is assumed that they are medieval or earlier. It is possible that external features associated with them extend as far as the development area.

5. Conditions on the consent

Condition 15 was an archaeological condition imposed on the granting of the planning application.

No development shall take place 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.

Reason: In line with Section 23 of Welsh Office Circular 60/96 - Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology

6. Field methodology

The watching brief will be carried out in accordance with Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (CIfA, 2014a)

A two-person team will watch the top soil stripping of the development area and will examine any features exposed, and record them. The excavation of foundation trenches will be watched unless the topsoil strip has shown conclusively that no archaeological features/layers are present.

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 client, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Heritage Management Section and the Local Planning Authority case officer will be convened in order to agree a course of action. The applicant will be responsible for paying for any further work necessary.

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 if appropriate, will be drawn, at an appropriate scale, recording all features of archaeological interest. The plan will be based on the applicants' survey drawings of the development area.

A written record of all activity will be kept in a project specific notebook. If archaeological contexts are encountered they will be recorded following the *Central Excavation Unit Manual: Part 2: Recording*, 1986, using a consecutive numbering system.

Any artefacts will be dealt with in accordance with the guidance provided in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA, 2014b). 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*.

Colour digital photographs will be taken, as appropriate, using a 16M 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 Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (CIfA, 2014a, point 3.8 p.14) 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*, the annual review of archaeological work in Wales collated by the Council for British Archaeology Wales (CBA Wales)

12. Archive

The paper archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Record, including a copy of the final report in accordance with the CIfA's *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (CIfA, 2014c). 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 for Upland Survey (RCAHMW, 2011).

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

Trysor is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and both partners are Members of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, www.archaeologists.net

Jenny Hall (BSc Joint Hons., Geology and Archaeology, MCIfA) had 12 years excavation experience, which included undertaking watching briefs prior to becoming the Sites and Monuments Record Manager for a Welsh Archaeological Trust for 10 years. Since 2004 she has been an independent archaeologist undertaking a variety of work that includes upland survey, desktop assessments and watching briefs.

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15. Insurance & Professional indemnity

Trysor has Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance.

16. Project identification

The project has been designated Trysor Project No. 2015/447

17. Sources

17.1 Maps

Ordnance Survey, 1889, 1:10560 scale, sheet Cardiganshire XXXIX.SW, surveyed 1887

Ordnance Survey, 1889, 1:10560 scale, sheet Cardiganshire XXXIX.SW, surveyed 1887

Ordnance Survey, 1889, 1:10560 scale, sheet Cardiganshire XXXIX.SW, surveyed 1887

Llandygwydd parish tithe map, 1841

17.2 Non-published

Central Excavation Unit, 1986, *Central Excavation Unit Manual: Part 2: Recording*, 1986

RCAHMW, 2011, *Form AB12: "Notes for Guidance" in the preparation of applications for Uplands Archaeology Initiative projects 2012-13*

17.3 Published

CIfA, 2014a, *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief*

CIfA, 2014b, *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.*

CIfA, 2014c, *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*

17.4 Web based materials

Archwilio, http://www.cofiadurcahcymru.org.uk/arch/dyfed/english/dyfed_interface.html, accessed 23/02/2015

Cynefin – the Tithe Maps of Wales, <http://cynefin.archiveswales.org.uk/en/> accessed 23/02/2015

Historic Wales, <http://historicwales.gov.uk/>, accessed 23/02/2015

Peoples Collection, <http://www.peoplescollection.wales> accessed 23/02/2015

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Trysor
February 2015

APPENDIX B



Plate 1: TNB2015_101: Starting stripping at the southern end of the development site, looking east



Plate 2: TNB2015_102: Stripping the development area, looking north northwest, bedrock visible in places



Plate 3: TNB2015_103: Stripping area, looking north northwest, shallowness of the ploughsoil down to bedrock noticeable.



Plate 4: TNB2015_104: Small patch of burning 004, below 001 and above 002, its origin are unknown but , could be agricultural burning, looking west southwest.



Plate 5: TNB2015_105: Small patch of burning 005, below 001 and above 003, its origin are unknown but , could be agricultural burning, looking north northwest.



Plate 6: TNB2015_106: Eastern side of the development area, boundary bank to be breached for access, looking north northeast



Plate 7: TNB2015_107: Development area fully stripped, looking north northwest.