

Archaeology Wales

Gogerddan Campus, University of Aberystwyth, Ceredigion

Archaeological Excavation



By
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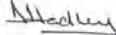
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Gogerddan Campus, University of Aberystwyth, Ceredigion

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Contents

Non-Technical Summary	1
1. Introduction	2
2. Site Description	3
3. Historical Background	3
4. Methodology	5
5. Results of the Excavation	6
5.1 Area 1	6
5.2 Area 2	8
5.3 Artefactual and Environmental Data	9
6. Discussion and Conclusions	10
6.1 Overall Interpretation	10
6.2 Conclusion and Recommendations	11
6.3 Storage and Curation	12
7. Bibliography and References	13

Appendix I	Context Descriptions
Appendix II	Environmental Sample Summary
Appendix III	Written Scheme of Investigation
Appendix IV	Archive Cover Sheet

List of Illustrations

Figure 1	Location map
Figure 2	The development site showing the results of the geophysical survey and evaluation
Figure 3	Planned development works
Figure 4	Map of the excavation areas
Figure 5	Plans of Excavation Areas 1 & 2
Figure 6	Sections of Excavation Area 1
Figure 7	Sections of Excavation Area 2

Photographs

Photos 1-2	Site prior to excavation
Photos 3-11	Excavation Area 1
Photos 12-18	Excavation Area 2

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Non-Technical Summary

In January 2017 Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) carried out an archaeological excavation at Gogerddan Campus, University of Aberystwyth, Ceredigion (SN 6268 8359) ahead of planned development works at the site (Planning Application number A161170). The archaeological excavation was undertaken as requested by Dyfed Archaeological Trust Development Management prior to any groundworks associated with the development. The archaeological excavation was commissioned by Aberystwyth Innovation and Enterprise Campus Ltd.

The site has been subject to a previous Desk-Based Assessment (Bell & Murphy 2016), Geophysical Survey (Day 2016) and Archaeological Evaluation (Poucher 2016a). It lies in close proximity to a site of known archaeological activity, with funerary and ritual activity recorded from the Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age and early medieval periods to the southwest. The site also lies in relatively close proximity to the late medieval and post-medieval mansion of Gogerddan. The archaeological evaluation investigated numerous features highlighted by the geophysical survey, only one of which proved to be of archaeological significance. This comprised a linear ditch with a possible associated trackway, both of which were undated.

This ditch and possible trackway was targeted as the area of archaeological excavation. Two adjacent areas were machine excavated to reveal the extent of the known feature and any associated archaeological remains in its vicinity. Area 1 revealed a single straight-sided linear ditch across the site, therefore at least 22m long, orientated east – west. The eastern extent was not revealed due to the presence of modern services. The western extent was not revealed due to the presence of overhanging trees, although the ditch was not revealed in Area 2, which lay 7.5m to the west. The ditch was straight sided with a flattish base at the eastern end, becoming concave to the west. It contained several fills, including evidence of iron panning suggesting it functioned as a drainage feature. The possible trackway alongside it was subsequently interpreted as the base of an accompanying bank. It is suggested these features represents a former field boundary, comprising a field bank with adjacent drainage ditch. No dateable material was found, although it is conjectured that the feature may represent a medieval or early post-medieval field boundary removed by 18th century landscaping.

No continuation of the ditch was revealed in Area 2, although a single post hole was noted on the same alignment. Mixed and redeposited material evident in this area suggests significant historic landscaping, possibly dating to the 18th or 19th century based on a single find in an associated deposit. It is suggested this ground disturbance may be associated with a reorganisation of the landscape around Gogerddan House in the 18th century.

No further finds, features or deposits of archaeological interest were revealed, possibly due to the potential late post-medieval landscaping. Due to this lack of archaeological potential in this area, no further archaeological work associated with the planned development is proposed.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report has been prepared by Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) in response to a request by Aberystwyth Innovation and Enterprise Campus Ltd to undertake an archaeological excavation of identified archaeological features ahead of a proposed development on land at the Gogerddan Campus of the University of Aberystwyth, Ceredigion (Figures 1-3).
- 1.2 Planned development works at the Gogerddan Campus, University of Aberystwyth include the construction of a three-storey Innovation and Enterprise Campus building, associated car parking, access and landscaping, along with the demolition of two existing agricultural buildings, an existing pyrolysis unit and the partial demolition of an existing granary store and associated loading ramp. The proposed development site, which comprises an area of 1.39 hectares (3.43 acres), is located to the west of the Institute of Biological, Environmental & Rural Sciences situated on the Gogerddan Campus of Aberystwyth University (centred on NGR SN 6268 8359). These areas are illustrated in Figure 2. A planning application for these works has been submitted (planning application number A161170). The planning authority is Ceredigion County Council (CCC).
- 1.3 The development management division of Dyfed Archaeological Trust (DAT-DM), in its capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority, requested a Grampian style condition be attached to the planning application. This condition is in line with Section 23 of Welsh Office Circular 60/96 – Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology - and reads:
- 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.**
- 1.4 The site has been subject to a series of pre-determination archaeological investigations that comprise an archaeological desk-based assessment (Bell & Murphy 2016), a geophysical survey (Day 2016) and an archaeological evaluation (Poucher 2016a). As a result of these works one linear feature of potential archaeological significance was recorded crossing the development site. Planned development in this area would require groundworks that would not allow for preservation *in situ* of this feature, therefore a Written Scheme of Investigation for the archaeological excavation of this feature and the surrounding area was produced by Archaeology Wales and approved by DAT-DM (see Appendix II).
- 1.5 The purpose of the archaeological excavation is to provide the local planning authority with sufficient information regarding the nature of archaeological remains on the site of the development, the requirements for which are set out in Planning Policy (revised edition 9, 2016) Section 6.5, and Welsh Office Circular 60/96. The work is to ensure that all buried artefacts and deposits are fully investigated and recorded if they are disturbed or revealed as a result of activities associated with the development.
- 1.6 The excavations took place between the 25th January and the 2nd February 2017. The work was managed by Phil Poucher and carried out under the supervision of Jerry Bond and Andrew Shobbrook. A site monitoring visit was undertaken by DAT-DM on the 30th January.

- 1.7 All work conformed to the ClfA's Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation (2014) and was undertaken by suitably qualified staff to the highest professional standards.
- 1.8 The AW project number for the work is 2460 and the site code is GCA/17/EX. The project details are summarised on the Archive Cover Sheet (Appendix IV).

2 Site Description (Figures 1-3; Photos 1 & 2)

- 2.1 The development area is located to the west of the Institute of Biological, Environmental & Rural Sciences situated on the Gogerddan Campus of Aberystwyth University, 4.6km to the northeast of the centre of Aberystwyth. The campus is located on the western floor of a narrow, steep-sided and forested valley through which two watercourses converge to become the westward flowing Nant Clarach.
- 2.2 Gogerddan Campus is situated within the former grounds of Plas Gogerddan; a late Georgian mansion house. The site is bisected by a minor B-road (Highway C1010) which runs east – towards Penryhn-coch, and joins the A4159 at a crossroads to the west. A minor road also forks off between the C1010 and the A4159 and forms the western boundary of the development area. The A4159 road flanks the western side of the campus.
- 2.3 The existing university campus is comprised mainly of large late post-medieval and modern agricultural buildings, blocks of up to three-storey high modern buildings and several glass houses and polytunnels. These buildings are surrounded by hardstanding, some lawned areas, car parking, footpaths and trees. A triangular field of pasture lies immediately to the west of the main campus buildings, bounded along its west side by the minor road connecting the A4159 with the C1010 highway. This field is enclosed by post-and-wire fencing with a row of trees along its western boundary. The development area spans both the western edge of the current built limits of the campus (to the north and south of the C1010 Highway), along with this triangular area of pasture.
- 2.4 The solid bedrock geology of the area comprises sandstones and mudstones of the Aberystwyth Grits Group; sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 428 to 444 million years ago in the Silurian Period. This is overlain by alluvium, comprising clay, silt, sand and gravel formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period in a local environment once dominated by rivers (BGS 2016).

3 Historical Background (Figures 2 & 4)

- 3.1 A detailed study of the archaeological and historical background to the site has been undertaken by Dyfed Archaeological Trust (Bell & Murphy 2016).
- 3.2 In summary, the study has shown that the proposed development lies in an area with a high density of archaeological sites of many periods. Of particular note is an area of funerary and ritual activity dated from the late Neolithic/early Bronze Age, through the Iron Age and into the early medieval period. This area lies directly to the southwest of the existing campus, and in close proximity to the proposed development. The main area of activity is protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (CD259 – see Figure 2).

- 3.3 A Bronze Age round barrow and several ring ditches have been recorded, both through crop marks and archaeological excavation (Murphy 1986 & 1992). Two standing stones are also recorded, one of which was relocated in the 19th century but is surrounded by prehistoric pits and post holes. Radiocarbon dates obtained from some of these features indicate late Neolithic to early Bronze Age activity. A number of Iron Age crouched burials are also recorded close to the Bronze Age ring ditches. A variety of circular enclosures have also been recorded to the north and northwest of the Scheduled Area, the closest of which, the Gogerddan Park Enclosure Cropmark (NPRN 404548), lies in the northern part of the campus grounds. These circular enclosures, although un-investigated, appear typical of Iron Age defended enclosures noted throughout this area. Within the Scheduled Area at least 22 early medieval graves have been identified close to one of the standing stones. A radio-carbon date from one of the graves produced a 3rd to 7th century date, making this the only ecclesiastical site in Ceredigion that has been absolutely dated to the early medieval period.
- 3.4 During the medieval period this area became part of the Y Dywarchen Grange of the extensive holdings of Strata Florida Abbey. It is possible that the early medieval cemetery site was further developed during this period. This is suggested by a late 16th century reference to a chapel at “Gogirthan”, which may point to a now vanished chapel site in the area (Ludlow 2004).
- 3.5 Following the Dissolution the area passed into the hands of the independent estates of Court Farm and Gogerddan, although it is possible a house may have stood at Gogerddan since the medieval period. A house is recorded in the area since at least the 15th century, owned by the influential Pryse family. The current country house was built in the late 17th or early 18th century, from money made primarily through lead-mining, and became the principal house of the county. The house was largely remodeled in the mid-19th century. A significant formal garden existed at Gogerddan in the 18th century, with a separate deer park. In the 19th century the formal garden was replaced by parkland and structures relating to hunting and racing (Palmer 2004). It was sold to the University College of Wales and the Welsh Plant Breeding Centre in 1949, with extensive modern development occurring in the later 20th and 21st century.
- 3.6 A subsequent geophysical survey was undertaken of accessible parts of the development areas (Day 2016). Within the area of excavation, which lies within a triangular field of pasture, a large magnetic anomaly was identified crossing the area, interpreted as a curved double bank and corresponding to a moderate incline that is visible on the ground. The polarity of the results suggested the bank may have been largely built from stone, with readings also suggesting an inner ditch, which was interpreted as a potential Iron Age or early medieval enclosure, given the known archaeological activity recorded to the southwest. Other lengths of bank and ditch were also recorded within the field, as well as a possible buried wall.
- 3.7 Survey work to the north also identified a number of possible archaeological features, including a square pit with a central feature, reminiscent of early medieval graves recorded during excavation work in the early medieval cemetery to the south (CD259).
- 3.8 As a result of these findings Archaeology Wales was commissioned to undertake a trenched evaluation of the proposed development area (Poucher 2016a). Several trenches were opened in the triangular field of pasture. The large potential curvilinear enclosure bank and

ditch across the northern end of this area was shown to correspond to a natural terrace, presumably a former terrace associated with the Nant Clarach watercourse which now lies further to the north. No evidence of a boundary bank or ditch, or any internal archaeological activity was noted. Some ephemeral ditches were recorded across the upper edge of the slope, interpreted as a likely post-medieval field boundary of limited archaeological interest. One feature was visible to the south, consisting of a linear ditch [1010], with an area of compacted small stone along its eastern edge that was thought may represent an associated trackway (1003). The ditch was 1.4m wide, 0.7m deep, and running east - west. This ditch was visible on the geophysical survey as a straight linear feature, running across the field area. The feature remained undated. With the potential exception of this single undated feature, no evidence of potential prehistoric or early medieval archaeological finds, features or deposits were revealed within this area. It was further thought that a distinct change in ground level between the area of the Scheduled Ancient Monument (CD259) and this triangular field (which was lower) may indicate this area has undergone terracing or similar landscaping work, potentially in association with post-medieval parkland associated around Plas Gogerddan.

- 3.9 Investigations to the north, in the Cae Lodge area, revealed limited archaeological potential. Several features identified on the geophysical survey appeared to be related to a mixture of post-medieval and modern agricultural drainage and other services, along with surface detritus. No features of archaeological interest were revealed.

4 Methodology

- 4.1 Prior to the excavation, a Written Scheme of Investigation was produced detailing the methodology for the archaeological work. This was agreed by DAT-DM and a copy is included in Appendix III.
- 4.2 The area of the identified archaeological features were machine excavated using a flat-bladed bucket under close archaeological supervision. This area was excavated to either the top of archaeological features or to natural geological deposits.
- 4.3 Initially an area measuring 22m by 8m (Area 1) was opened up across the line of the ditch and any associated features. This was constrained at the eastern end by the presence of modern service trenches running along the edge of the field, and at the western end by the presence of a line of trees. A further, irregularly-shaped area (Area 2), was opened up measuring approximately 15m by 8m, immediately to the west of the line of the trees in an attempt to identify the continuation of the ditch towards the western edge of the site.
- 4.4 All areas were hand cleaned to prove the presence or absence of archaeological features and to determine their significance. Sample excavation was undertaken on all cut archaeological features, comprising 50% of all discrete features and 30% of all linear features. Recording was carried out using Archaeology Wales recording systems (pro-forma context sheets, etc), using a continuous number sequence for all contexts.
- 4.5 Context numbers and descriptions are summarised in Appendix I.

- 4.6 Written, drawn and photographic records of an appropriate level of detail were maintained throughout the course of the project. Digital photographs were taken using cameras with resolutions of 10 mega pixels or above.
- 4.7 Plans and sections were drawn to a scale of 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10, as required.
- 4.8 Environmental samples were taken from several deposits for bulk sieving/flotation. The samples were initially processed and examined by AW, and these results are presented in Appendix II.
- 4.9 A project archive will be prepared in accordance with the National Monuments Record (Wales) agreed structure, as laid out in the WSI (Appendix III).
- 4.10 The fieldwork took place between 25th January and the 2nd February 2017.

5 Results of the Excavation (Figures 5 - 7; Photos 3 - 18)

5.1 Area 1 (Figures 5 & 6; Photos 3 – 11)

- 5.1.1 The excavation area was divided into two separate areas designed to avoid underground services and upstanding vegetation.
- 5.1.2 Area 1 formed a roughly rectangular area in plan, orientated east by west, measuring 22m long by 8m wide and 0.42m deep. At 0.42 m below existing ground level the natural sub strata **(105)** was revealed, which comprised a compact mid grey-orange gritty clay with the occasional small sub-rounded stone inclusion. A single linear ditch **[123]** was recorded, cut into the natural sub strata. This crossed the excavated area, and was therefore at least 22m long, by 1m to 1.3m wide, orientated east - west. Three separate investigational slots were excavated across the course of the ditch, along with a previous slot excavation during the evaluation (Poucher 2016: Ditch 1010) to investigate its character and form, and to obtain any possible dating evidence which might be present within the confines of the ditch.
- 5.1.3 The most eastern investigational slot testified that the ditch cut **[123:110]** at this location had straight cut sides leading to a flattish base, and measured 1.2m wide by 0.35m deep. Three separate fills had formed within the confines of the ditch. The basal fill **(111)** comprised a moderately compacted, mottled pale grey and red-brown silty-clay, 0.10m thick. This appears to represent a primary deposit formed through water logging and washed in natural material deposited soon after the ditch was opened. Overlying **(111)** was a very firm orange-brown silty-clay **(120)** deposit, containing frequent iron oxide concretions, at their thickest to the north. The iron oxide concretions within this fill are likely to have been accumulated through water action in acidic soils, eventually naturally forming a concreted surface that would have impeded further water drainage. Above this level the ditch was infilled by deposit **(122)**, which consisted of a loosely compacted pale grey silty-clay, containing occasional inclusions of small to medium sized stones.
- 5.1.4 The northern edge of this ditch section cut into the natural subsoil **(105)**, but also appeared to cut through an overlying subsoil horizon **(108)**. This layer consisted of a fairly compact mid grey-brown silty-clay with common to frequent inclusions of small stones and gravel. The southern edge of this ditch section was truncated by a modern electrical service trench, obscuring the relationship between the ditch cut and deposits on this southern edge. The

natural subsoil **(105)** on this southern edge however was overlaid by a compact stony layer **(121)**, comprising pale-grey silty-clay, up to 75% of which comprised small rounded stones and gravels. This deposit extended for a width of at least 1.1m. This in turn was overlaid by a mid grey-brown silty-clay **(130)**, similar in composition to deposit **(108)**.

- 5.1.5 Approximately 4m to the west, the previous archaeological evaluation (Poucher 2016a) also investigated a section of this ditch **[Evaluation cut 1010]**. This ditch section was recorded as having a sharp break of slope on the northern side, more rounded to the south, with smooth moderate sides meeting at a narrow, slightly irregular, shallow concave base. The ditch was 1.4m wide and 0.7m deep. An iron panning (iron oxide concretions) deposit **(Evaluation deposit 1008)** had formed in the base of the cut, extending over the natural subsoil to the south. Above this iron panning was a deposit of light grey silty-clay **(Evaluation deposit 1009)**, 0.05m thick. This was overlaid by a 0.24m thick deposit of fairly compact light-grey mottled clay **(Evaluation deposit 1005)**, with frequent bands and patches of iron panning throughout. This deposit contained the only find to be retrieved from the features, comprising a shaped circular slate pot lid, unfortunately of a type that can be found in a very broad date range from the prehistoric through to the post-medieval period. To the south of the ditch the iron panning layer **(Evaluation deposit 1008)**, was overlaid by a very thin (0.03m thick) deposit of compact light greyish-yellow gritty clay **(Evaluation deposit 1007)**. Both this thin layer and the infilling material **(Evaluation deposit 1005)** of the ditch were capped by a fairly compact layer of light grey clay with frequent small to medium stone inclusions **(Evaluation deposit 1003)**. This stony deposit was 0.05m thick, and extended for 1.5m, covering part of the ditch and area to the south up to the point where the underlying natural subsoil **(deposit 1006)** began to rise at the southern extent of the trench. This stony layer appears to represent a continuation of deposit **(121)** identified to the east. This in turn was covered by a 0.12m thick deposit of fairly compact mid-grey silty-clay with the occasional small stone inclusion **(Evaluation deposit 1004)**, believed to be a continuation of deposit **(130)**.
- 5.1.6 The central investigational slot demonstrated that the ditch at this location, cut **[123:124]**, had smooth moderately sloped sides, which descend to a slightly concave base. The cut measured 1.30m wide by 0.25m in depth and contained three separate fills. The basal fill **(125)** comprised a 0.07m thick deposit of moderate light grey silty-clay with orange mottling derived from patchy iron-oxide inclusions. Overlying the basal fill was a slightly friable light grey silty-clay **(126)**, measuring 0.08m thick and containing occasional small sub-rounded stones. Charcoal flecks were also found within this deposit along with some patches of orange mottling derived from iron oxide inclusions. The upper fill formed within the ditch cut comprised a slightly friable mid-grey clayey-silt **(127)**, which contained frequent inclusions of small sub-angular grit and frequent small sub-angular stones. The base of the deposit was almost entirely comprised of iron panning measuring 0.01m thick, the depth of the deposit as a whole measured 0.08m. Immediately to the south of the ditch cut the natural subsoil **(105)** was capped by a light grey silty-clay stony deposit up to a width of 1.25m from the southern edge of the ditch. This deposit represents a continuation of deposit **(121)**. This deposit fades to the west, occurring in more discrete patches or bands alongside the ditch cut as far as the limits of the excavated area.
- 5.1.7 The western investigational slot revealed that the ditch **[123:106]** at this location measured 1.2m wide by 0.25m deep and contained a single fill **(107)**. The ditch cut had moderately sloping concave sides, with a gentle break of slope on to a concave base. The single fill was

moderately compacted and consisted of a pale grey-brown silty-clay measuring 0.25m in depth. Within the fill occasional small sub-rounded stones were noted along with several separate small bands of iron panning, presumably collecting through water action within the acidic soil. The upper part of the ditch was indistinct as the infilling material was difficult to distinguish from the subsoil horizon **(108)**. Initially it appeared that **(108)** overlay the ditch fill, however subsequent examinations of the section, noting larger stone inclusions and a slightly greyer colour, suggest the ditch may in fact cut deposit **(108)**, making the ditch cut 0.4m in depth at this point.

- 5.1.8 The topsoil **(109)**, which overlay both subsoil (108) and the ditch, was composed of firmly compacted mid-brown clay-loam, measuring 0.2m in depth and containing moderate amounts of small sub-angular and sub-rounded stones.
- 5.1.9 Also revealed within this area was a cut for a modern electric mains cable, which had in turn truncated contexts **100, 109, 108, 105** and the southern side of ditch cut **110**.

5.2 Area 2 (Figures 5 & 7; Photos 12-18)

- 5.2.1 Area 2 formed an irregular area in plan measuring 16m long southeast to northwest, by 7m wide and 0.60m deep. The natural sub strata **(117)** found within area 2 comprised a firmly compacted mid-grey silty-clay, which was first apparent at 0.60m below existing ground level and was mainly confined to the southern area of the excavation, where it may be apparent closer to the surface due to subsequence landscaping works in this area. A second band of lighter mid grey-orange clay natural subsoil **(105)** was found to overly **(117)**.
- 5.2.2 Two archaeological features were recorded within area 2, both having been cut into the natural subsoil **(105)**.
- 5.2.3 A sub-oval post hole **[118]** measured 0.44m in length by 0.35m wide and 0.20m deep. The sides of the post hole had a sharp break of slope to relatively smooth steep sides, which in turn lead to a flat base. A single fill **(119)** was found within the feature, consisting of a loosely compacted mid orangey-brown clayey-silt containing frequent inclusions of very small sub-angular grit. Rare charcoal pieces and occasional charcoal flecks were also found within the fill. This feature produced no dateable artefacts.
- 5.2.4 The post hole **[118]** only became visible as it cut into the natural subsoil **(105)**. Overlying the subsoil were a series of mixed deposits, within which no archaeological features were discernible as they were being excavated. These deposits were greatly mixed towards the south-western part of Area 2, closer to the road, appearing in more regular layers towards the north-eastern part of Area 2.
- 5.2.5 Towards the north-eastern end of Area 2 the lower of these mixed deposits comprised a buried soil layer **(104)** of moderate light brown clayey-silt, with occasional small sub-rounded stone inclusions. This layer measured 0.15m thick. Overlying the buried soil layer was a fairly compact mid grey-brown clayey-silt **(103)**, which contained occasional inclusions of medium sub-rounded stones and frequent inclusions of small gravel. A single post-medieval clay pipe stem (18th/19th century) was recovered from this deposit.

- 5.2.6 Recorded within the eastern facing section of Area 2 was a cut **[102]** which had truncated both the natural subsoil **(105)**, the buried soil layer **(104)** and deposit **(103)**. The cut measured 2.0m wide by 0.32m deep, with gentle concave sides on to a shallow concave base. The cut contained a single fill **(101)** consisting of a moderate mid grey-brown clayey-silt, containing frequent inclusions of small sub-angular stones and very small sub-angular grits. This feature was not visible in plan as the area was excavated.
- 5.2.7 The mixed deposits were recorded in the northeast facing section of Area 2, all overlying the natural sub strata **(117)**, which undulated greatly in this area. The mixed deposits were intermingled, and it was not possible to determine an exact sequence, suggesting they are in fact all contemporary. These deposits included a loosely compacted light brownish-orange silty-clay **(116)**, which contained frequent small sub-angular gritty inclusions and rare small sub-rounded stones. This layer measured up to 0.40m thick. Largely overlying **(116)** was a loosely compacted orange clayey-silt **(115)** with frequent cobble-sized inclusions of sub-rounded stones and some smaller sub-angular stones. Layer **(112)**, which comprised a firmly compacted orange clayey-silt with occasional small sub-angular gritty inclusions and some rare small sub-rounded stones, was visible both underlying, and overlying these deposits. As it spread to the northeast this deposit **(112)** became indistinguishable from the natural subsoil **(105)**. A large irregular pattern of iron panning **(114)**, 1.6m long and 0.02m thick, had formed within the western end of the section. The final layer **(113)** of this sequence of deposits visible within the section consisted of a moderate pale grey clay, containing frequent small gritty inclusions and measuring 0.04m thick. Although no archaeological material was contained within these mixed deposits, the nature and extent of their deposition would suggest they comprise artificially disturbed natural and subsoil deposits as a result of significant landscaping activity in this area. Deposit **(103)** is likely to be related to this sequence of activity, suggesting a late post-medieval date.
- 5.2.8 No clear evidence of the continuation of ditch **[123]** was revealed within Area 2. Post hole **[118]** lies on the projected line of the ditch and may therefore be associated. Cut feature **[102]** lies slightly off this line. It may represent a curve in the line of the ditch but this was not discernible in plan, and sequentially cut **[102]** would appear to belong to a later period of activity.
- 5.2.9 A modern gas pipeline **[128]** was found to cut across Area 2, heading on a northwest by southeast orientation, measuring a maximum of 1.10m wide. The cut appeared machine excavated and had truncated layers **103, 104, 105** and **117**. The cut contained a single fill of moderately compacted mixed greyish brown silty clay **(129)**, presumed to be a mixed deposit obtained from each of the layers that the gas pipeline had truncated.

5.3 *Artefactual and Environmental Data*

- 5.3.1 Very few artefacts were recovered from this excavation. The previous evaluation recorded a very small quantity of 19th to 20th century pottery, ironwork and ceramic building material from topsoil deposits. One iron horseshoe and a small number of pottery fragments, all of the same 19th to 20th century date range, were recovered during this excavation. These artefacts were of no diagnostic value, and were not retained.

- 5.3.2 Only one item was recovered from a secure context within the excavated areas. Within deposit (103), a layer underlying the topsoil within Area 2, was one clay pipe stem fragment. This fragment cannot be closely dated other than suggesting a general 18th or 19th century date range. This deposit is believed to derive from a period of landscaping activity.
- 5.3.3 Within the evaluation trenches a shaped fragment of slate, identified as a pot lid, was recovered from the upper fill (Evaluation deposit 1005) of the linear ditch that crosses the site. The fragment of slate, roughly circular in shape, was 0.15m in diameter, and 0.018m thick. Such slate pot lids have a very broad date range, found in contexts dating from the prehistoric through to the post-medieval periods. This find was retained.
- 5.3.4 Bulk environmental samples were taken from the fills of the ditch [123], as well as posthole [119]. No identifiable organic material or finds were recovered from these fills, but they represent the only deposits with the potential to contain finds or environmental data of archaeological interest. These samples have been processed and the initial results from their examination are presented in Appendix II. In summary, environmental material was retrieved from the infilling material of ditch [123], and there is the potential for this to be analysed further by an appropriate specialist. However, no dating evidence or datable material was recovered, and it is considered doubtful whether the retrieved environmental data would help to further the understanding of the character, function or date of the archaeological features.

6 Discussion and Conclusions

6.1 Overall Interpretation

Area 1

- 6.1.1 The excavation of Area 1 revealed a single ditch crossing the length of the excavated area, at least 22m in length. It continued to the east, but its full extent could not be traced due to the presence of live services. It also continued to the west, but again its full extent could not be traced, this time due to tree cover. It did not however appear to extend into Area 2, which lay 7.5m to the west. The profile of the ditch varied slightly, with steep sides and a flattish base to the east, becoming shallower and more concave as it extends to the west. The level of the base appeared to undulate slightly, but with no clear fall in height in either direction.
- 6.1.2 A variety of fills were encountered within the ditch. At the eastern end a primary fill was revealed (111), overlain by a layer of iron oxide concretions (120). This 'iron panning' was also evident as the lower deposit to the west (Evaluation deposit 1008, deposit 125), and in the single fill at the western end (deposit 107). This would suggest the ditch was acting as a drainage feature, with water washing the iron oxide sediments through the acidic soil, which were then concreting as deposits of 'iron panning'. Upper fills would suggest a gradual infilling of this ditch. No infilling deposits contained finds that could be closely dated. Likewise the sparsity of artefactual material from overlying topsoil deposits do not even provide a contrast to suggest the ditch fills may be from an earlier period. No material was retrieved from environmental processing that could be used to scientifically date this feature.
- 6.1.3 Along the southern edge of the ditch a thin spread of compacted stony material was encountered (deposit 121), extending from the edge of the ditch up to 1.5m to the south. It

was suggested during the evaluation stage of investigation (Poucher 2016) that this may represent the remains of a trackway alongside the ditch. However, as a larger extent was uncovered during this excavation it would appear more likely that this deposit represents the base remains of a bank running alongside the ditch.

- 6.1.4 It is suggested that this linear bank and ditch represents the remains of a former field boundary, comprising a field bank with associated drainage ditch. The date of the feature is unclear. It is not apparent on 19th or 20th century mapping and therefore may pre-date a possible reorganisation of the landscape during the 18th century, when the formal gardens and deer park were laid out around the nearby Gogerddan House. The field boundary identified during the archaeological investigation could therefore relate to a medieval or early post-medieval field system.

Area 2

- 6.1.5 This area revealed no positive continuation of the possible field boundary, other than the presence of a single post hole [118] on the projected line of the boundary. There was no indication of a function for this post hole, or any dateable material recovered from it. A shallow concave feature [102] visible in the east facing section of this area does not appear to be related to the boundary, lying off the projected line and seemingly higher in the sequence of deposits.
- 6.1.6 This area was largely covered in very mixed deposits, comprising largely redeposited natural material and subsoils. These would suggest significant historic ground disturbance in this area, likely to be related to landscaping works. This material appeared to have been spread out to the northeast; one of these deposits contained a clay pipe stem, of general 18th or 19th century date. These deposits indicate that this area underwent landscaping in the 18th century associated with Gogerddan House. This may also explain why ground levels in this field are significantly lower than ground levels beyond the road to the southwest, and why there is no evidence of the archaeological activity that appears so prevalent in the land to the southwest (Scheduled Area CD259).

6.2 Conclusion and Recommendations

- 6.2.1 The linear feature identified during the archaeological evaluation was revealed as much as was practically possible, and archaeologically investigated. It is suggested that this linear feature, along with a spread of stony material alongside it, represents the remains of a field bank and associated drainage ditch. The feature has not been positively dated, but it is suggested that it may represent a medieval or early post-field field boundary, which was then removed during the 18th or early 19th century.
- 6.2.2 The western terminus of the field boundary was not identified. This may be due to significant historic landscaping works that were revealed towards the western end of the site. These landscaping works appear to be late post-medieval in date (18th/19th century), associated with a reorganisation of the landscape around Gogerddan House. Landscaping during this period may also explain the difference in ground levels between this area and land beyond the road

to the southwest, and also why the archaeological activity so prevalent in that area (Scheduled Area CD259) does not extend into the planned development area.

- 6.2.3 No further finds, features or deposits of archaeological interest were encountered within the excavated areas. Combined with the evidence from the previous archaeological evaluation (Poucher 2016a) there would appear to be a very low potential for any finds, features or deposits of archaeological interest to survive within the planned development area. The features encountered during the archaeological evaluation and subsequent excavation have been proven to relate either to natural features or to be of limited archaeological interest; and these have preserved through record. Hence, no evidence of significant archaeological activity, as is suggested in land outside the development area to the southwest, has been revealed within the planned development area that would potentially be affected by groundworks associated with the development.
- 6.2.4 No further archaeological investigations are recommended associated with the planned development in this area.

6.3 Storage and Curation

- 6.3.1 The project archive will be prepared in accordance with: *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* (ClfA, 2014), the requirements of the National Monuments Record (Wales) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment, MoRPHE* (Historic England, 2006). The archive will be deposited with Ceredigion Museum, Aberystwyth and with the RCAHMW.

7 Bibliography and References

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Poucher, P. 2016a, *Gogerddan Campus, University of Aberystwyth, Ceredigion: Archaeological Evaluation*, Archaeology Wales Report No. 1498

Poucher, P. 2016b, *Gogerddan Campus, University of Aberystwyth, Ceredigion: Visual Impact Assessment CD259*, Archaeology Wales Report No. 1528

Cartographic

Anon	1842	Llanbadarn Fawr tithe map
Ordnance Survey	1823	Original Surveyors drawing: Aberystwyth
Ordnance Survey	1888	1 st Edition 1:2,500 map Cardiganshire
Ordnance Survey	1905	2 nd Edition 1:2,500 map of Cardiganshire

Internet Sources

British Geological Survey: Geology of Britain Viewer

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/> (Accessed 27/07/16)

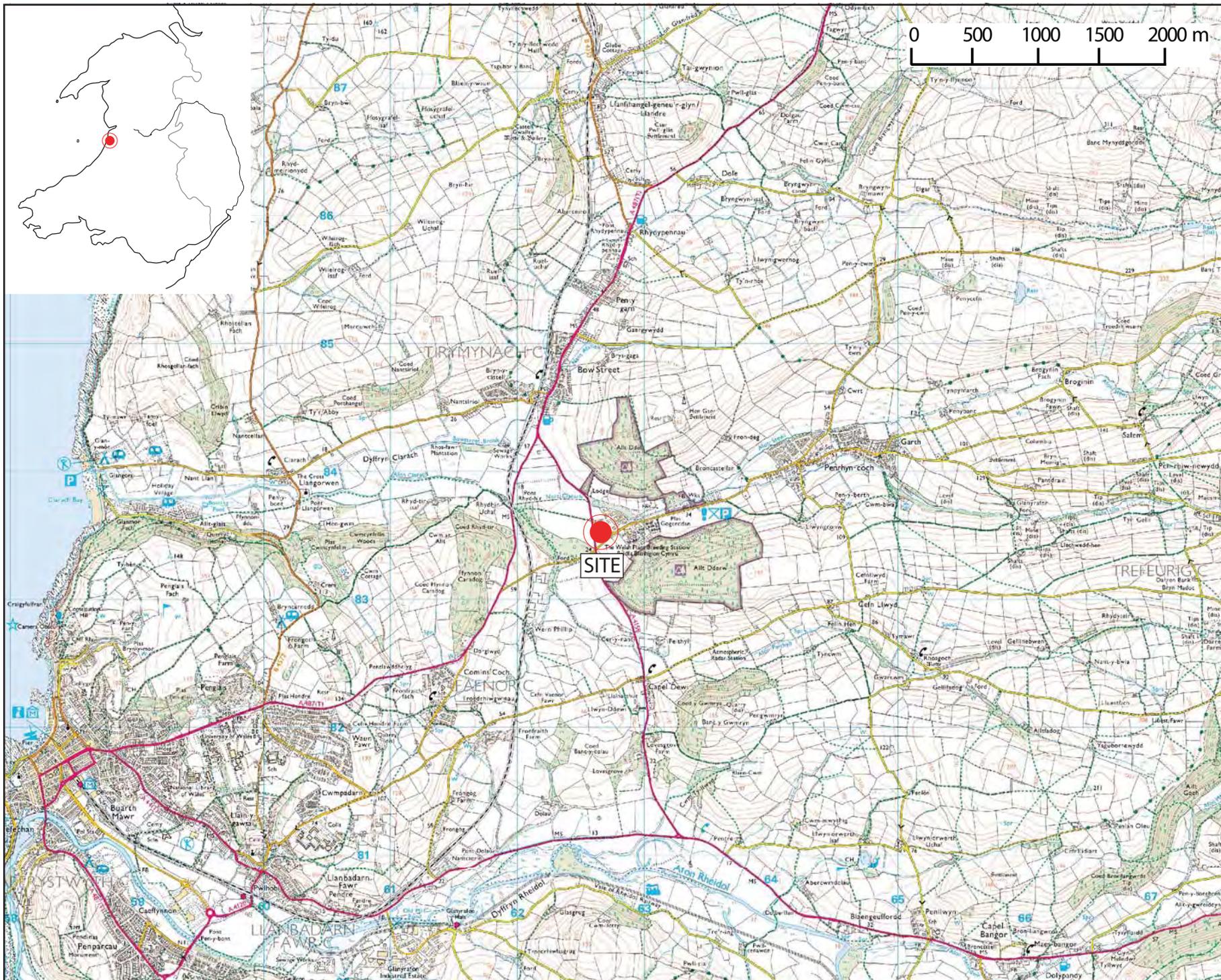


Figure 1: Location map, 1:40,000 @ A4

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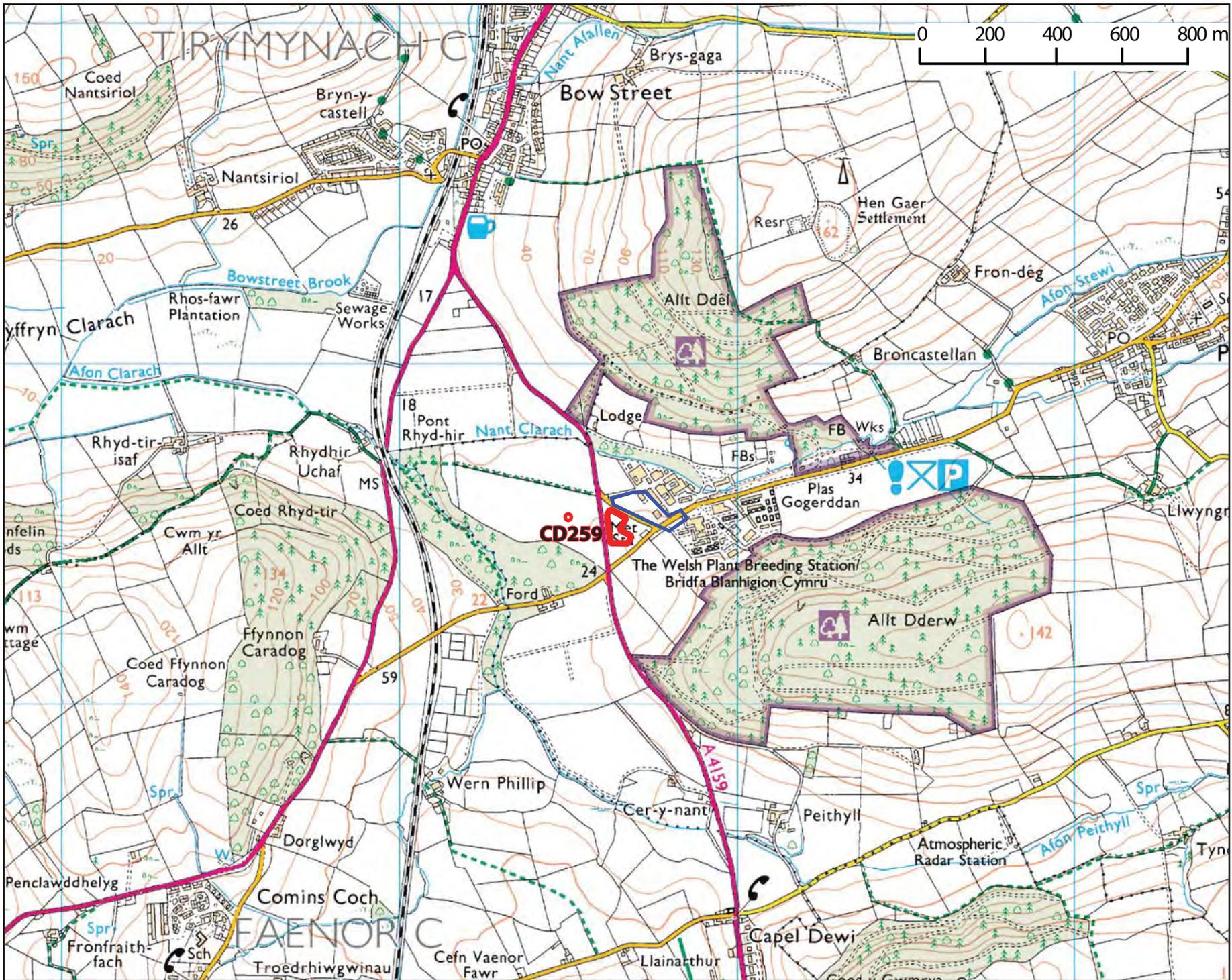


Figure 2: Location map, showing the proposed development site in blue, also showing the location of the Scheduled Ancient Monument CD259 in red.

1:15,000 @ A4

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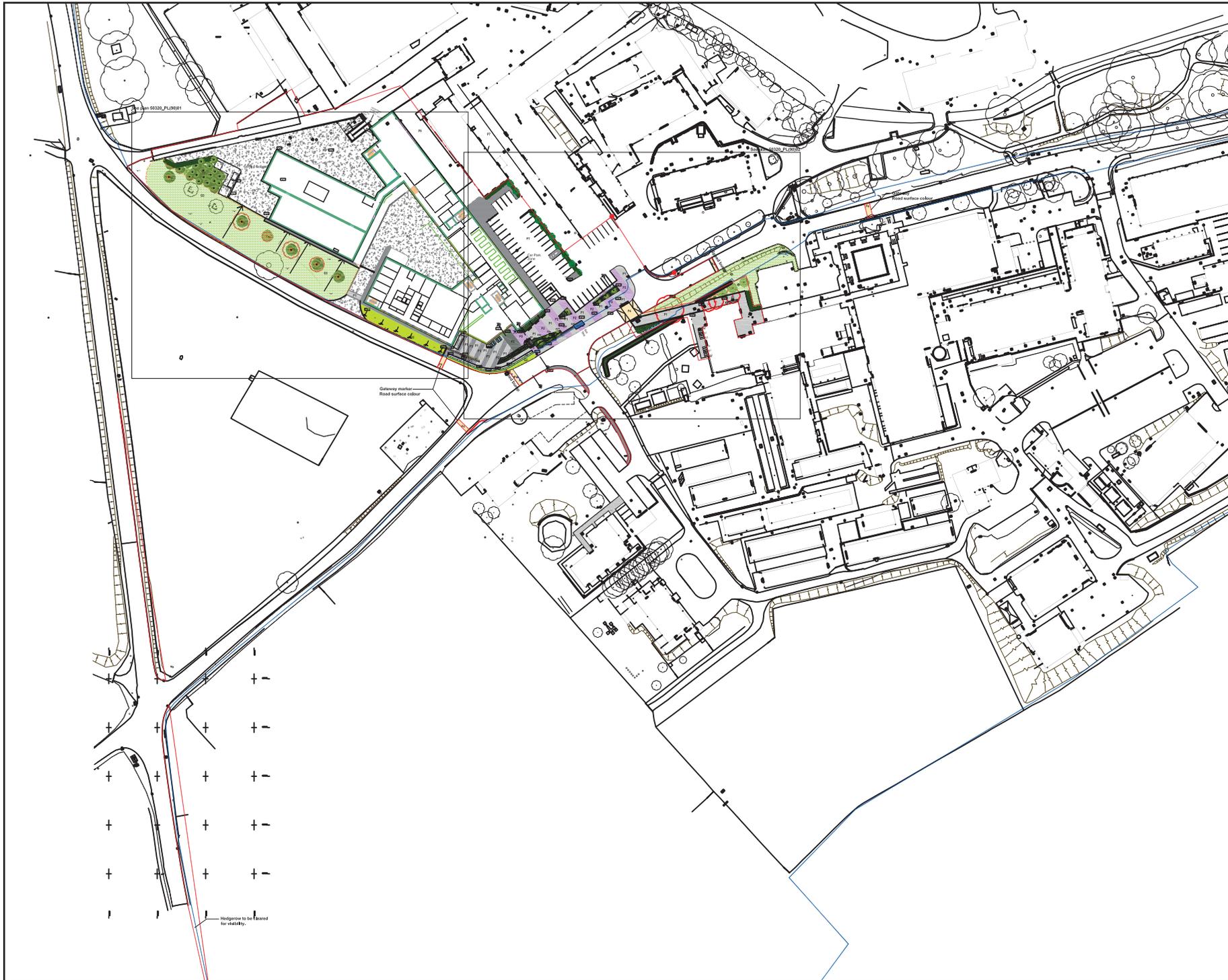


Figure 3: Proposed development plan. Development extent outlined in red, excluding the reptile receptor area.

Taken from a detailed plan provided by IBI group (drawing no. 50320_SP(90)01).

NOT REPRODUCED TO SCALE.

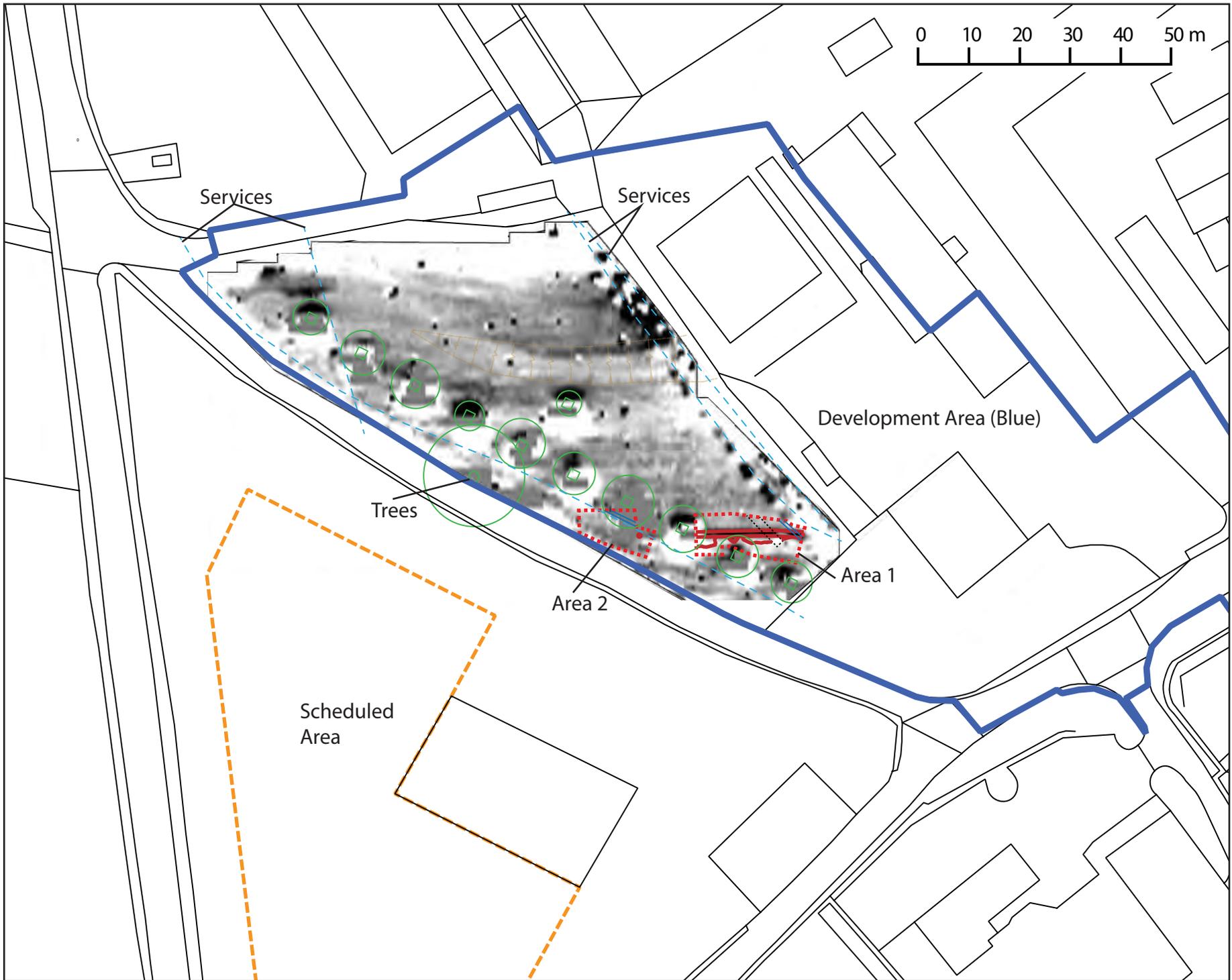
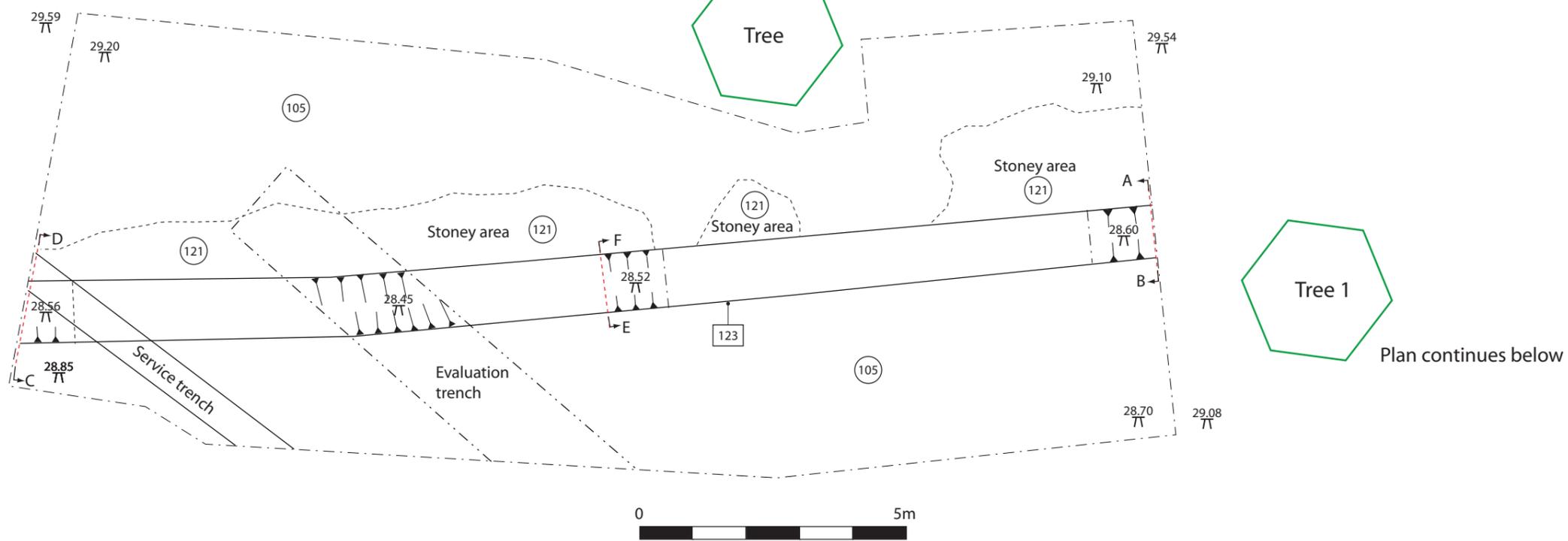


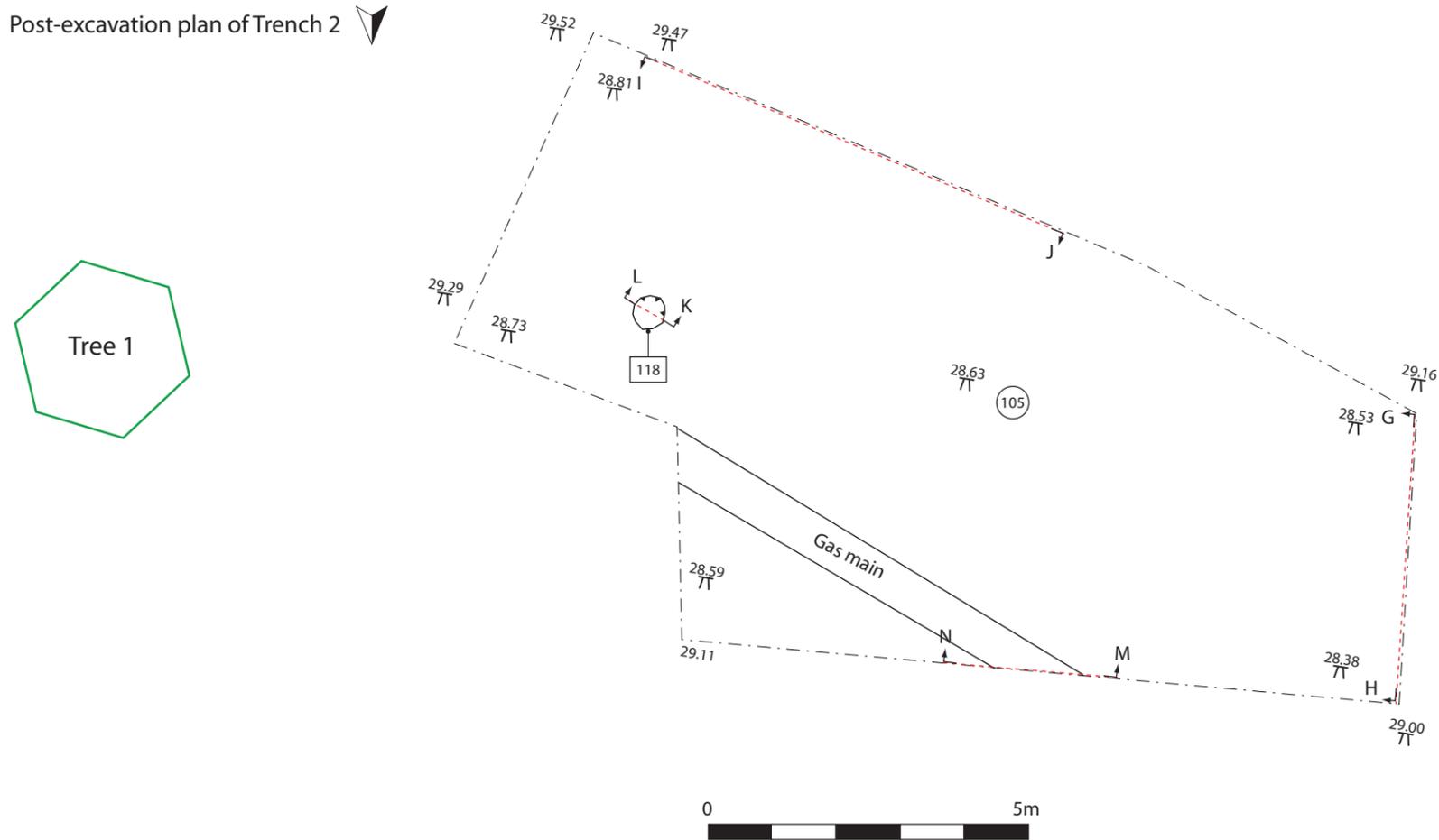
Figure 4: Site layout, showing the areas of excavation in red, along with identified archaeological features also in red. Also showing geophysical survey results, topographical features and area of planned development.

1:1000 @ A4

Post-excavation plan of Trench 1



Post-excavation plan of Trench 2



Job Title: Gogerddan Campus, Aberystwyth

Drawing Title: Plans of Areas 1 & 2

Date: March 2017

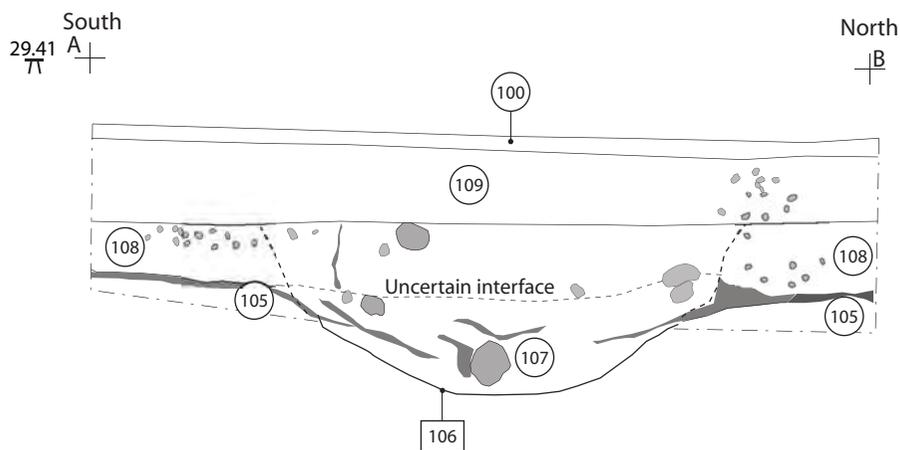
Drawn By: ILB

Scale: 1:100 @ A3

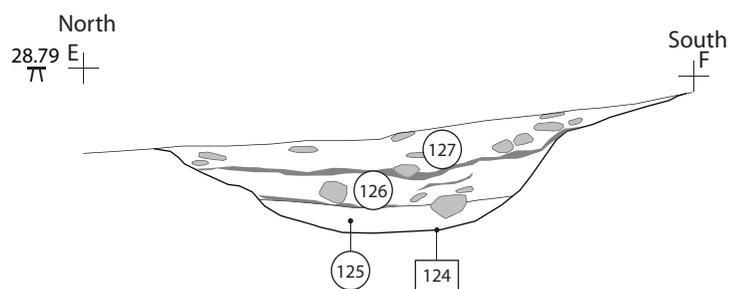
Figure 5



Section showing Ditch [106] (segment of Ditch [123])



Section showing Ditch [124] (segment of Ditch [123])



Key

-  Stone
-  Iron panning

Section showing Ditch [106] (segment of Ditch [123]) and modern service trench

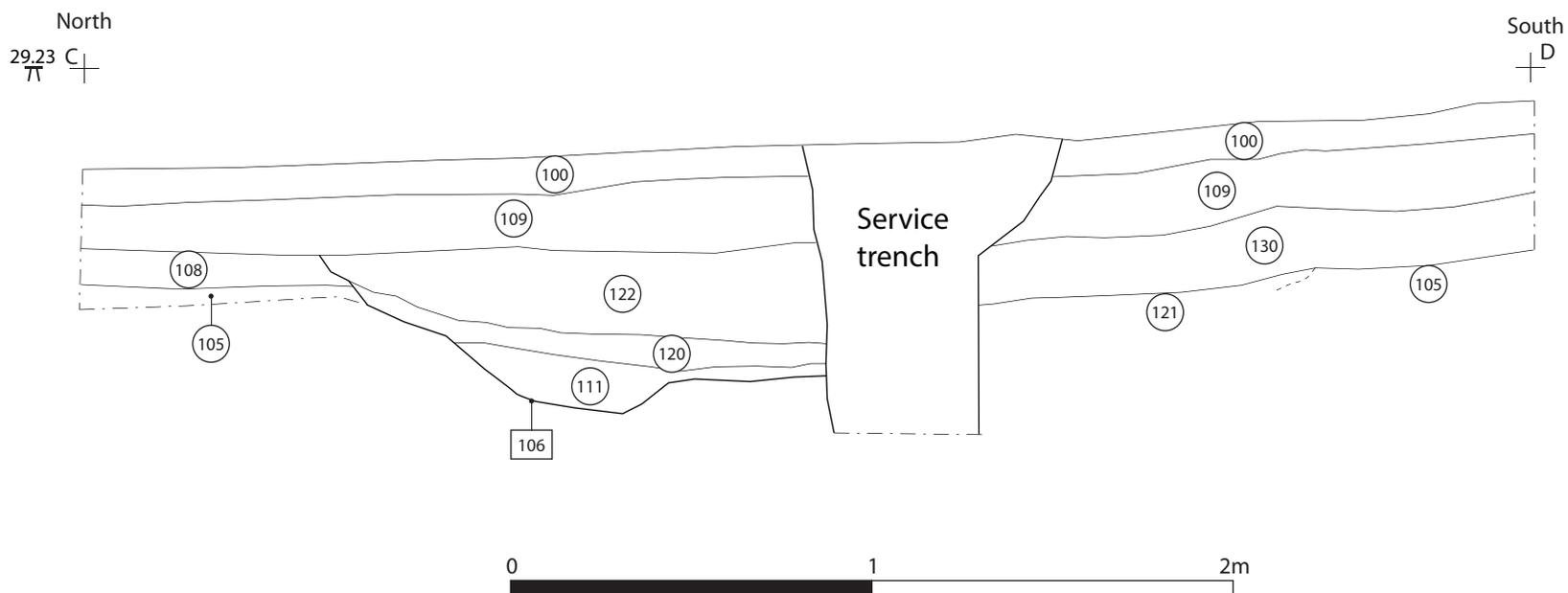
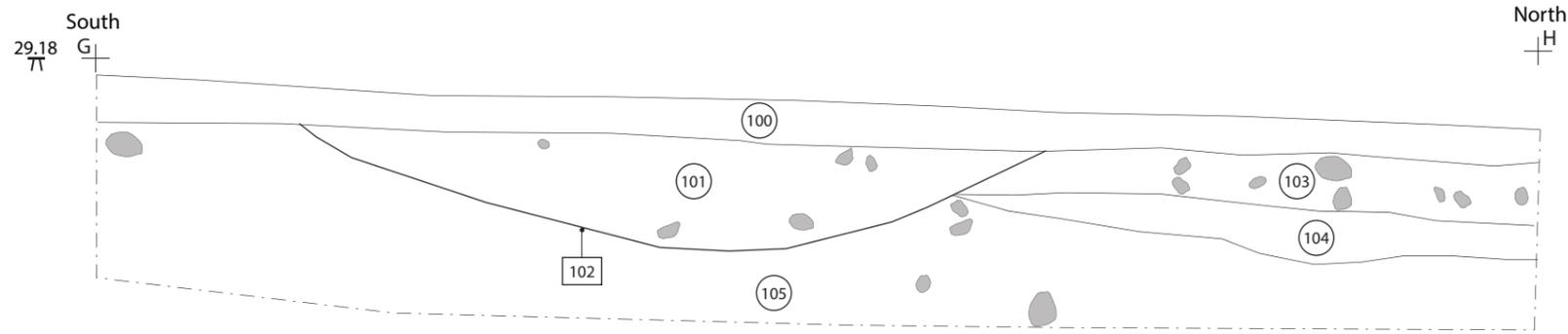


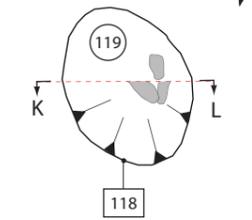
Figure 6
Sections within Area 1

Scale 1:20 @ A4

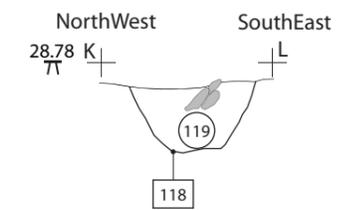
Section of cut [102], probably related to post-medieval landscaping



Plan of Posthole [118] within Area 2



Section of Posthole [118]

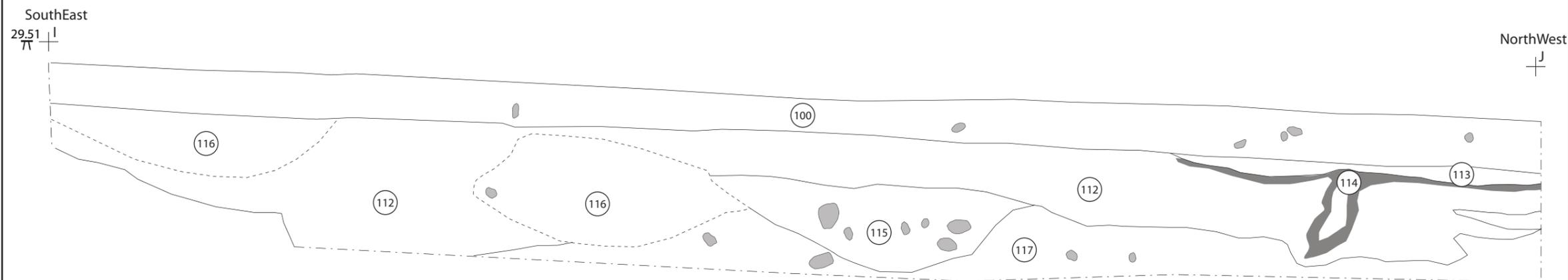


Key

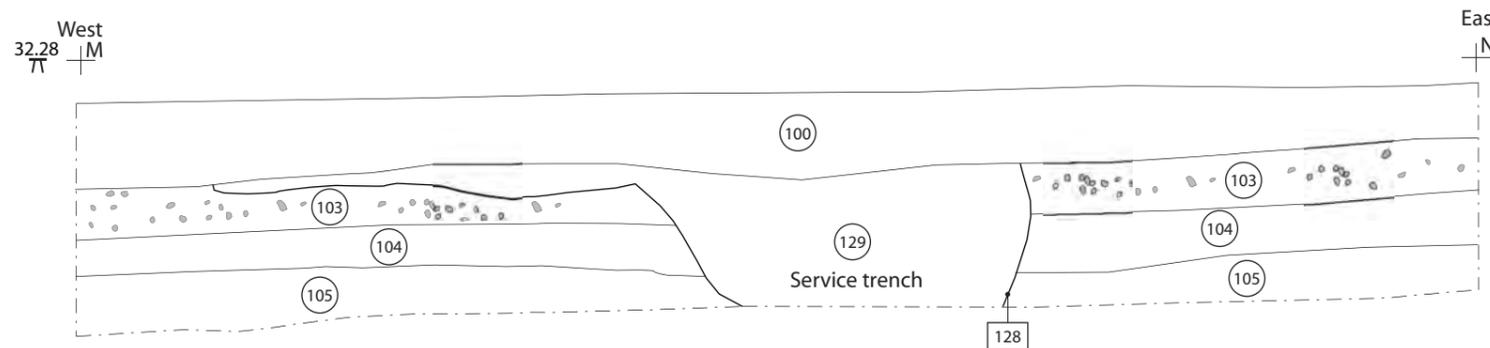
 Stone

 Iron panning

Representative section within Area 2



Representative section within Area 2



Job Title: Gogerddan Campus, Aberystwyth

Drawing Title: Sections within Area 2

Date: March 2017

Drawn By: ILB

Scale: 1:20 @ A3

Figure 7



Photo 1: Southeast facing shot of development site prior to site work commencing.



Photo 2: East facing shot of development site and area of excavation prior to work commencing.



Photo 3: East facing shot of Area 1, pre-excitation. Showing route of Ditch [123]. 2m scales.



Photo 4: As above, west facing.



Photo 5: As above, facing south-southeast.



Photo 6: East facing shot of the eastern end of Ditch [123] (segment [110]) prior to excavation. 2m & 0.3m scales.



Photo 7: Southeast facing shot of the eastern end of Ditch [123] (segment [110]) during excavation, showing the line of the modern service trench. 2m scales.



Photo 8: East facing shot of the eastern end of Ditch [123] (segment [110]), post excavation. 2m & 0.5m scales.



Photo 9: East facing shot of excavated Ditch [123] (segment [124]). 2m & 0.3m scales.



Photo 10: West facing shot of the western end of Ditch [123] (segment [106]) prior to excavation. 2m & 0.5m scale.



Photo 11: West facing shot of the western end of Ditch [123] (segment [106]) after excavation. 2m & 0.5m scale.



Photo 12: Southeast facing shot of Area 2. 2m scales.



Photo 13: Northwest facing shot of Area 2. 2m scales.



Photo 14: Northwest facing plan shot of half-sectioned post hole [118]. 0.5m & 0.3m scales.



Photo 15: Northeast facing shot of half-sectioned post hole [118]. 0.5m & 0.3m scale.



Photo 16: West facing shot of the section of Area 2, showing cut [102] to the left of the vertical scale. 3m & 0.5m scales.



Photo 17: North facing shot of the section of Area 2, showing sequence of deposits and modern service trench behind the vertical scale. 4m & 0.5m scales.



Photo 18: Southwest facing shot of the section of Area 2, showing mixed landscaping deposits, as well as distinct changes in ground level with the land beyond the road. 3m & 0.5m scales.

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APPENDIX I: Context List

Context Descriptions

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Dimensions (Length x width x thickness)
100	Layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topsoil (turf covered) • Loose, mid brown clayey-silt • Rare, small sub-rounded stone • 19th/20th century pottery fragments & iron horseshoe 	Across site, 0.10m thick
101	Fill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fill of 102 • Moderate, mid grey-brown clayey-silt • Abundant, small sub-angular stone & very small sub-angular grit • No finds 	Length unknown, 2m wide, 0.32m thick
102	Cut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unknown feature • Visible only in section • Gentle, shallow concave sides. Gentle break of slope to concave base • Single fill 102 • Cuts layers 105 & 103 (indistinct interface with 103) 	Length unknown, 2m wide, 0.32m deep
103	Layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redeposited layer • Fairly compact, mid greyish-brown clayey-silt • Rare, small-medium sub rounded stone. Frequent, small sub-angular stone. • Clay pipe stem (18th/19th century) 	Approx. 10m x 1.8m, 0.2m thick
104	Layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buried soil layer • Moderate, light brown clayey-silt • Rare, small sub-rounded stone • No finds 	Approx. 10m x 1.7m, 0.15m thick
105	Layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural subsoil • Compact, mid grey-orange sandy-clay • Common, small sub-angular stone. Rare, medium rounded stone • No finds 	Across site
106	Cut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ditch (segment of ditch 123) • Linear in plan, parallel straight sides. Orientated east – west • Moderate concave sides, moderate break of slope on to a concave base • Filled by (107). Cuts (105). 	>22m long x 1.2m wide, 0.25m deep
107	Fill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fill of ditch 106 • Moderate, light grey-brown silty-clay. Iron panning and root staining evident • Rare, large rounded stone. Common, small sub-rounded stone • No finds 	>22m x 1/1.2m, 0.25m thick

108	Layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subsoil layer • Fairly compact, mid grey-brown silty-clay • Common, small angular stone. Root remains evident • No finds 	>1m x >1.2m, 0.22m thick
109	Layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topsoil / ploughsoil • Fairly compact, mid brown clayey-silt (loam) • Common to abundant, small sub-angular & sub-rounded stone • No finds 	Across Area 1, 0.18m to 0.2m thick
110	Cut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ditch (segment of ditch 123) • Linear in plan, parallel straight sides. Orientated east – west • Moderate straight sides, moderate break of slope to flattish base • Filled by (111), (120) & (122) • Cut by service trench 	>22m (1m segment) x 1.2m, 0.35m deep
111	Fill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary fill of [110] • Moderate, mottled light grey & mid reddish-brown silty-clay • Abundant, small sub-angular stone • No finds 	>1m x 0.9m 0.1m thick
112	Layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redeposited subsoil • Compact, mid orange clayey-silt • Rare, small sub-angular & sub-rounded stone • No finds 	>10m, width unknown, 0.6m thick
113	Layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redeposited subsoil • Moderate, light grey silty-clay • Abundant, small sub-angular stone. Rare, small charcoal flecks. • No finds 	>1.6m x ?, 0.04m thick
114	Layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iron panning • Compact, dark orange silty-sand • Rare, small sub-angular stone • No finds 	Approx. 7m x ?, 0.02m to 0.4m thick
115	Layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redeposited/disturbed subsoil • Loose, mid orange clayey-silt • Abundant, medium-large sub-rounded stone • No finds 	1.4m long, 1m wide, 0.5 thick
116	Layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redeposited/disturbed subsoil • Loose, light brown-orange silty-clay • Abundant, small angular and rare small sub-rounded stone • No finds 	1.2m long x 1m wide, 0.4m thick
117	Layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural subsoil • Compact, mid grey sandy-clay 	Southern section (Area 2) only
118	Cut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posthole • Sub-oval in plan 	0.44m x 0.35m, 0.2m deep

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharp break of slope, steep straight sides. Sharp break of slope to a flat base • Filled by 119 	
119	Fill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fill of 118 • Loose, mid orange-brown clayey-silt • Abundant, small sub-angular stone. Rare, medium sub-angular stone. Rare, small charcoal flecks • No finds 	0.44m x 0.35m, 0.2m thick
120	Fill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fill of ditch 110 • Compact, mid orange-brown silty-clay • Very abundant (80-90%) iron concretions • No finds 	>1m long x 1.2m wide, 0.05m thick
121	Layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bank deposit • Compact, light grey silty-clay • Very abundant (75%) small sub-rounded stone • No finds 	Across trench (>22m) x 1.5m, thickness unknown
122	Fill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fill of ditch 110 • Loose, light grey silty-clay • Rare, small-medium sub-rounded & sub-angular stone • No finds 	>1m long x 1.3m wide, 0.22m thick
123	Cut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group number for ditch cuts – 106, 110 & 124 	>22m long, 1.3m wide, 0.35m deep
124	Cut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ditch (segment of ditch 123) • Linear in plan, parallel straight sides. Orientated east – west • Moderate straight sides, moderate break of slope to shallow concave base • Filled by (125), (126) & (127) 	>22m (1m segment) long x 1.3m wide, 0.25m deep
125	Fill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower fill of ditch 124 • Moderate, light grey silty-clay • Common orange iron oxide inclusions • No finds 	>1m x 0.6m, 0.07m thick
126	Fill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fill of ditch 124 • Moderate, light grey silty-clay • Rare, small sub-rounded and sub-angular stone. Rare small charcoal flecks. Rare iron oxide concretions • No finds 	>1m x 0.85m, 0.08m thick
127	Fill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upper fill of ditch 124 • Moderate, mid grey clayey-silt • Abundant, small sub-angular and sub-rounded stone. Layer of iron oxide accretions along base of deposit • No finds 	>1m x 1.2m, 0.08m thick
128	Cut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modern gas services • Linear in plan, orientated northwest – southeast 	1.1m wide, other dimensions not

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Straight parallel machine cut edges • Filled by 129 	recorded
129	Fill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fill of modern service cut 128 • Moderate, mixed grey-brown silty-clay 	1.1m wide, other dimensions not recorded
130	Layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subsoil layer • Moderate, mid grey-brown silty-clay • Common, small angular stone. • No finds 	? x >3m, 0.2m thick

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APPENDIX II:
Environmental Sample Summary

Gogerddan Campus, University of Aberystwyth, Ceredigion

Environmental sample summary: GCA/17/EX

April 2017

Introduction

Samples were taken from five separate deposits during the archaeological excavation at the Gogerddan Campus of the University of Aberystwyth, Ceredigion in January – February 2017. These samples were taken for Bulk Sieving/Flotation to recover charred and mineralised plant macro-fossil remains, charcoal fragments, small bones and other finds.

These samples were retrieved from cut archaeological features identified on the site, primarily comprising ditch fill deposits and a posthole fill deposit. The features have been interpreted as possible field boundaries, although a precise date has not been established.

Evidence of iron oxide accretions within many of the deposits may suggest past waterlogging, although currently the soils appear well drained. Soils in this area are also generally acidic, which is further indicated by the iron oxide accretions. Such conditions are generally considered poor for the survival of environmental materials, although charcoal, molluscs, phytoliths and charred plant remains and some bone may survive.

Due to the nature of the features, retrieved samples were relatively small in size. Processing has now taken place.

Methods

All of the samples were taken for Bulk Sieving/Flotation. All features were hand-excavated and recorded as per standard methodology. Individual contexts were identified within these features, and several contexts were selected as potentially suitable for further environmental analysis. These deposits were removed and placed in sealed and labelled polythene bags, the samples were recorded on pro-forma sample record sheets. Due to the limited nature of the surviving archaeological deposits on the site, the sampled deposits were relatively small in size. Ten litre samples were taken from deposits 119, 125, 127 and 127, a thirty litre sample was taken from deposit 107.

The samples were stored and subsequently processed at AW facilities.

The material was flotation sampled, using a 500 micron sieve. The contents of the flots were visually examined to identify any finds (e.g. pot, flint, glass, beads) and to give an indication of potential environmental material (e.g. seeds, charcoal), otherwise these flots were weighed and retained for any potential subsequent specialist analysis required. The residues were further sieved at 5mm and 1mm. Stones greater than 6.7mm were discarded, and residues were picked through to retrieve and quantify any material not recovered during flotation. Examination of the residues would indicate that flotation has been successful in retrieving environmental data.

Results

Sample No. 1

Context 119

This deposit comprised the fill of a truncated posthole [119] of unknown date and function, although it assumed to be related to a possible field boundary ditch [123]. The deposit consisted of a crumbly mid orange-brown clayey-silt. Abundant small to medium stone was present, and the occasional small charcoal fragment was noted. The deposit comprised the only fill recorded within the post-hole.

Only trace amounts of charcoal were retrieved, no charcoal was retrieved suitable for further analysis. The small sample available did not produce any further material of environmental interest.

Sample No.2

Context 107

This deposit comprised the fill of a linear ditch [106], a segment of ditch [123]. The segment of ditch lay at the western end of the area revealed through excavation. A single ditch fill was noted within this segment, although potential tip lines, and uncertain interface with deposit 108, and the identified of multiple deposits in other segments of the same ditch would suggest this deposit may in fact represent multiple deposition events.

The deposit was moderate to loosely compacted, light greyish-brown silty-clay. The occasional stone was present, deposits of iron oxide accretions were noted, as was the presence of small roots throughout. No finds were retrieved during excavation, and no charcoal samples suitable for dating were noted.

A 30 litre sample was collected for bulk processing. The flots comprised largely of fine sands and small roots, but a small quantity of charcoal flecks and some seeds were visible. Examination of the residue identified two sub-rounded flint fragments, one small fragment of unidentified bone, 18 fragments of charcoal and one seed.

Context	Sample No.	Residue Kept (g)	Flot	>5mm	1-5mm
(107)	02 1/3	3309	Charcoal	Flint x 1	Bone x 1 Charcoal x 6
(107)	02 2/3	3276	Charcoal; Seeds	-	Flint x 1 Charcoal x 2
(107)	02 3/3	3256	Charcoal; Seeds	-	Charcoal x 10 Seeds x 1?

Sample No.3

Context 127

This deposit comprised the fill of a linear ditch [124], a segment of ditch [123]. The segment of ditch lay at the centre of the area revealed through excavation. This was the uppermost of three infilling

deposits within this section of ditch, the underlying deposits being (126) and (125), also sampled (see below).

The deposit was a moderately compacted mid grey clayey-silt. It contained abundant fragments of small stone. Iron-oxide accretions were noted within the deposit during excavation.

A 10 litre sample was collected for bulk processing. However, no material was identified as worthy of further analysis, and its location as the uppermost ditch fill indicated that this deposit was unlikely to contain environmental or dating material of significance to the site.

Sample No.4

Context 126

This deposit comprised the fill of a linear ditch [124], a segment of ditch [123]. The segment of ditch lay at the centre of the area revealed through excavation. This deposit comprised the middle of three fills identified within this ditch segment. It was overlaid by deposit 127, and lay above deposit 125. It was interpreted as a secondary fill within the ditch.

The deposit comprised a moderately compacted light grey silty-clay. Occasional inclusions of small stone, and rare fragments of charcoal were noted within the material. No finds were retrieved during excavation, and no charcoal samples suitable for dating were noted.

A 10 litre sample was collected for bulk processing. The flots comprised largely of fine sands with some small roots evident. Some seeds and charcoal were evident within the flots. A relatively large quantity of fine charcoal flecks were retrieved from the examined residue, along with five seeds.

Context	Sample No.	Residue Kept (g)	Flot	>5mm	1-5mm
(126)	04 1/1	1923	Charcoal; Seeds	-	Charcoal x 489 Seeds x 5

Sample No.5

Context 125

This deposit comprised the fill of a linear ditch [124], a segment of ditch [123]. The segment of ditch lay at the centre of the area revealed through excavation. The deposit comprised the lowest of three fill identified within this ditch segment, the remaining fills comprising deposits (126) and (127). This deposit was interpreted as a primary fill within the ditch, and therefore potential relatively contemporary to the creation of the ditch itself.

This comprised a firm to moderately compacted light grey silty-clay, with very few inclusions noted. No finds were retrieved during excavation, and no charcoal samples suitable for dating were noted.

Only a small amount of this deposit was able to be retrieved for sampling, consequently less than 10 litres were collected for bulk processing. Some fine charcoal and the occasional seed were evident within the flots. Further fine charcoal flecks were retrieved from the examined residue, along with one very small fragment of unidentified bone.

Context	Sample No.	Residue Kept (g)	Flot	>5mm	1-5mm
(125)	05 1/1	1963	Charcoal; Seeds	-	Charcoal x 89 Bone x 1

Discussion

Several samples were taken from the infilling material within the linear ditch [123] identified on the site. These samples were taken from two excavated segments of the ditch, a third excavated segment at the eastern end of the ditch proved unsuitable due to modern intrusions into the infilling deposits. A sample taken from a discrete posthole to the west retrieved little of environmental value.

At the western end of the ditch Sample No.2 retrieved some environmental data of potential interest. Seeds, charcoal and a small bone fragment were present, however, given the relatively large sample taken from this deposit the environmental material present within this deposit appears relatively small. The mixed nature of the infilling material would also suggest the environmental material represents potentially several different depositional events, some of which may be related to a period when the ditch was no longer in use, and had begun to silt up. Therefore, although environmental material may be present, it is unlikely to provide constructive or conclusive evidence that would help characterise and/or date the ditch.

Within the centre of the ditch the retrieved samples appear more promising. However, Sample No.3 is clearly from a later upper deposit, likely from when the ditch was no longer in use, and therefore of little relevance in characterising and dating the feature. Sample No.4 is similarly a secondary deposit, although it may come from a period when the ditch was still in use and does contain environmental material that could be analysed further. This deposit contained a significant amount of charcoal flecks, potentially deriving from nearby burning activity. However the flecks were of a size that could have been carried for some distance by wind, or in the case of a potential drainage ditch, may have been washed along over some distance. No charcoal or bone fragments suitable for radiocarbon dating were identified and retrieved prior to flotation, and those retrieved from the flotation process are unsuitable for radiocarbon dating. Underlying this deposit was a primary fill within the ditch (Sample No.5), which has the greatest potential for providing material that would help characterise and date the ditch. Given the small quantity of material available to sample it contained a relatively large amount of charcoal fragments, along with some seeds and a small bone fragment. However, similarities in the size and quantity of the charcoal fragments to those retrieved from the overlying deposit would suggest this charcoal has filtered down into this deposit from the later, secondary fill above. This raises doubts about how secure the remainder of the environmental evidence within this context is, particularly given how thin this deposit was.

It is concluded therefore that although environmental material retrieved from these samples has the potential for further specialist analysis, such analysis is likely to be of limited use in establishing the primary character and date of the ditch [123]. Throughout all excavated and sampled deposits there was a distinct lack of cultural material. This may suggest the ditch was not associated with, or lay in close proximity to, and settlement activity. No finds or material suitable for dating analysis were retrieved.

References

Association for Environmental Archaeology 1995 *Environmental archaeology and archaeological evaluations. Recommendations concerning the environmental archaeology component of archaeological evaluations in England.* Working Papers of the Association for Environmental Archaeology 2,

Historic England 2002 *Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology*

Historic England 2011 *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation (2nd edition)*

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APPENDIX III:
Written Scheme of Investigation

Archaeology Wales

SPECIFICATION

FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

AT

Gogerddan Campus, University of Aberystwyth, Ceredigion

Prepared for:

Aberystwyth Innovation and Enterprise Campus Ltd

17th January 2016



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NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This Specification details the proposal for programme of archaeological excavation designed to investigate previously identified features of archaeological significance associated with the development of land at the Gogerddan Campus, University of Aberystwyth, Ceredigion. It has been prepared by Archaeology Wales Limited for Aberystwyth Innovation and Enterprise Campus Ltd, Aberystwyth University.

1. Introduction and archaeological background

Planned development works at the Gogerddan Campus, University of Aberystwyth, include the construction of a three-storey Innovation and Enterprise Campus building, associated car parking, access and landscaping, along with the demolition of two existing agricultural buildings, an existing pyrolysis unit and the partial demolition of an existing granary store and associated loading ramp. The proposed development site, which comprises an area of 1.39 hectares (3.43 acres), is located to the west of the Institute of Biological, Environmental & Rural Sciences situated on the Gogerddan Campus of Aberystwyth University (centred on NGR SN 62707 83574). These areas are illustrated in Figure 2. A planning application for these works has been submitted (planning application number A161170), the planning authority is Ceredigion County Council (CCC).

This specification has been prepared by Philip Poucher, Project Manager, Archaeology Wales Ltd (henceforth - AW) at the request of Aberystwyth Innovation and Enterprise Campus Ltd (AIEC), Aberystwyth University. It provides information on the methodology that will be employed by AW during an archaeological excavation at the site.

The methodology set out in this specification will be agreed with the Development Management division of Dyfed Archaeological Trust (DAT-DM), in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority, prior to the commencement of associated investigations on the site. Following a programme of previous archaeological investigations at the site, that included a desk-based assessment (Bell & Murphy 2016), geophysical survey (Day 2016) and archaeological evaluation (Poucher 2016), one linear feature of potential archaeological significance was recorded crossing the development site (detailed below). In an initial enquiry DAT-DM indicated that any subsequent planning consent would likely include a section 23 (Grampian style) condition relating specifically to the archaeological resource, and recommended that this identified feature either be preserved in situ, or preserved through record should development works preclude preservation in situ.

Planned development in this area would require groundworks that would not allow for preservation in situ, therefore this specification sets out a methodology for the excavation and recording of this feature and its surrounds in order to ensure preservation by record.

The purpose of the proposed archaeological excavation is to provide the local planning authority with sufficient information regarding the nature of archaeological remains on the site of the development, the requirements for which are set out in Planning Policy (revised edition 8, 2016), Section 6.5, and Welsh Office Circular 60/96. The work is to ensure that all buried artefacts and deposits are fully investigated and recorded if they are disturbed or revealed as a result of activities associated with the development.

All work will conform to the CIfA's Standards and Guidance for Archaeological

Excavation (CIfA 2014), and be undertaken by suitably qualified staff to the highest professional standards.

2. Site description and historic background

The proposed development area is located to the west of the Institute of Biological, Environmental & Rural Sciences situated on the Gogerddan Campus of Aberystwyth University, 4.6km to the northeast of the centre of Aberystwyth (Figures 1 & 2). The campus is located at the western floor of a narrow, steep-sided and forested valley through which two watercourses converge to become the westward flowing Nant Clarach.

Gogerddan Campus is situated within the former grounds of Plas Gogerddan; a late Georgian mansion house. The site is bisected by a minor B-road (Highway C1010) which runs east –towards Penryhn-coch, and joins the A4159 at a crossroads to the west. A minor road also forks off between the C1010 and the A4159 and forms the western boundary of the proposed development area. The A4159 road flanks the western side of the campus.

The existing university campus is comprised mainly of large late post-medieval and modern agricultural buildings, blocks of up to three-storey high modern buildings and several glass houses and polytunnels. These buildings are surrounded by hardstanding, some lawned areas, car parking, footpaths and trees. A triangular field of pasture lies immediately to the west of the main campus buildings, bounded along its west side by the minor road connecting the A4159 with the C1010 highway. This field is enclosed by post-and-wire fencing with a row of trees along its western boundary. The proposed development area spans both the western edge of the current built limits of the campus (to the north and south of the C1010 Highway), along with this triangular area of pasture.

The solid bedrock geology of the area comprises sandstones and mudstones of the Aberystwyth Grits Group; sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 428 to 444 million years ago in the Silurian Period. This is overlain by alluvium, comprising clay, silt, sand and gravel formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period in a local environment once dominated by rivers (BGS 2016).

3. Previous archaeological investigations

A detailed study of the archaeological and historical background to the site has been undertaken by Dyfed Archaeological Trust (Bell & Murphy 2016). In summary the study has shown that the proposed development lies in an area with a high density of archaeological sites of many periods. Of particular note is an area of funerary and ritual activity dated from the late Neolithic/early Bronze Age, through the Iron Age and into the early medieval period. This area lies directly to the southwest of the existing campus, and in close proximity to the proposed development. The main area of activity is protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (CD259 – see Figure 2). A Bronze Age round barrow and several ring ditches have been recorded, both through crop marks and archaeological excavation. Two standing stones are also recorded, one of which was relocated in the 19th century but is surrounded by prehistoric pits and post holes. A number of Iron Age crouched burials are also recorded close to the Bronze Age ring ditches, and at least 22 early medieval graves have also been identified close to one of the standing stones. A radio-carbon date from one of the graves produced a 3rd to 7th century date, making this the only ecclesiastical site in Ceredigion that has been absolutely dated to the early medieval period.

Due to this proximity there was initially considered to be a medium to high potential for prehistoric and early-medieval archaeological remains to be present within the proposed development area. There was also considered to be a potential for remains associated with the medieval gardens of Gogerddan mansion to be present within the development area, as well as lower potential for parkland features associated with the later post-medieval mansion.

A subsequent geophysical survey was undertaken of accessible parts of the Development Area (Day 2016, Figure 4). This included a triangular area of grassland, lined by trees, on the western side of the current campus. A large negative anomaly crossed this area, corresponding to a curved double bank or terrace of moderate incline that is visible on the ground. The polarity of the results suggested the bank may have been largely built from stone, with readings also suggesting an inner ditch. If part of a circular enclosure, the projected dimensions would be comparable to Iron Age defended enclosures, or early medieval ecclesiastical enclosures, both of which may potential occur at this location. Other lengths of bank and ditch were also recorded, as well as a possible buried wall.

An area to the north, adjacent to Cae Lodge, was also surveyed. This identified a number of possible archaeological features, including a square pit with a central feature, reminiscent of early medieval graves recorded during excavation work in the early medieval cemetery to the south (CD259).

As a result of these findings Archaeology Wales was commissioned to undertake a trenched evaluation of the proposed development area (Poucher 2016). Several trenches were opened in the triangular pasture field (Figure 4). The geophysical survey had identified a large potential curvilinear enclosure bank and ditch across the northern end of this area. This was shown to correspond to a natural terrace, presumably a former terrace associated with the Nant Clarach watercourse. No evidence of a boundary bank or ditch, or any internal archaeological activity was noted. Some ephemeral ditches were recorded across the upper edge of the slope, interpreted as a likely post-medieval field boundary of limited archaeological interest. One feature was visible to the south, consisting of a linear ditch [1010], with an area of compacted small stone along its eastern edge that may represent an associated trackway (1003) (Figure 5). The ditch was 1.4m wide, 0.7m deep, and running east - west. This ditch was visible on the geophysical survey as a straight linear feature, running across the field area. The feature remained undated. With the potential exception of this single undated feature, no evidence of potential prehistoric or early medieval archaeological finds, features or deposits were revealed within this area. A distinct change in ground level between the area of the Scheduled Ancient Monument (CD259) and this triangular field (which was lower) may indicate this area has undergone terracing or similar landscaping work, potentially in association with post-medieval parkland associated around Plas Gogerddan.

Investigations to the north, in the Cae Lodge area, revealed limited archaeological potential. Several features identified on the geophysical survey appeared to be related to a mixture of post-medieval and modern agricultural drainage and other services, along with surface detritus. No features of archaeological interest were revealed.

3. Site specific objectives

This specification sets out a program of works to ensure that the archaeological excavation will meet the standard required by The Chartered Institute for **Archaeologist's** *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation (2014)*.

The objective of the proposed excavation is to preserve, by record, detailed information on all archaeological deposits in the area of the proposed development, prior to their likely destruction as a consequence of the development. Overburden and modern deposits will be removed by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless bucket under archaeological supervision. All archaeological deposits, horizons and artefacts encountered will be recorded and removed stratigraphically by the excavation team.

A report will be produced that will provide a detailed account of all the archaeological work undertaken. Sufficient desk-top research will be undertaken to ensure that the results of this work are properly understood, interpreted and reported.

The report will include a comprehensive assessment of the historic context within which the archaeological evidence rests and will aim to highlight any relevant research issues within regional, national and, if relevant, international research frameworks.

4. Timetable of works

Fieldwork

The programme of archaeological excavation will be undertaken prior to the determination of the planning application associated with the proposed development. The work is proposed to start in mid-January 2017. Archaeology Wales will update DAT-DM with the exact date.

Report Delivery

The report will be submitted to AIEC and to DAT-DM within three months of the completion of the fieldwork. A copy of the report will also be sent to the regional HER.

5. Fieldwork

The work will be undertaken to meet the standard required by The Chartered **Institute for Archaeologist's Standard and Guidance** for Archaeological Excavation (2014).

The archaeological project manager in charge of the work will satisfy him/herself that all constraints to ground works have been identified, including the siting of live services and Tree Preservation Orders.

The location of the excavation area will be agreed with DAT-DM prior to the commencement of works. The intention is to strip an area that will expose the full accessible length of the ditch, anticipated to be around 45m, and of a sufficient width to encompass both the ditch and associated possible trackway and surrounding area alongside to expose any potential adjacent features. The presence of modern services at either end of the linear feature, and surrounding tree cover, may limit the full exposure of this feature.

The agreed excavation area will be excavated to the top of the archaeological horizon by a machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket under close archaeological supervision.

The resulting surface will be hand cleaned using hoes and/or pointing trowels, as appropriate, to prove the presence, or absence, of archaeological features and to

determine their significance. All such features will be recorded, and where appropriate, excavated.

Once the area has been stripped, and the full surviving extent of ditch [1010] and possible associated trackway (1003) has been exposed, along with any associated archaeological features in the vicinity, the percentage of these features requiring full excavation will be refined and agreed with DAT-DM.

Recording

Recording will be carried out using AW recording systems (pro-forma context sheets etc) using a continuous number sequence for all contexts.

Plans and sections will be drawn to a scale of 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 as required and related to Ordnance Survey datum and published boundaries where appropriate.

All features identified will be tied in to the OS survey grid and fixed to local topographical boundaries.

Photographs will be taken in digital format with an appropriate scale, using a 10MP camera with photographs stored in Tiff format.

The archaeologists undertaking the excavation will have access to the AW metal detector and be trained in its use.

Finds

The professional standards set in the Chartered Institute for **Archaeologists' Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological (2014)** will form the basis of finds collection, processing and recording.

All manner of finds regardless of category and date will be retained.

Finds recovered that are regarded as Treasure under *The Treasure Act 1996* will be reported to HM Coroner for the local area.

Any finds which are considered to be in need of immediate conservation will be referred to a UKIC qualified conservator (normally Phil Parkes at Cardiff University).

Environmental sampling strategy

Deposits with a significant potential for the preservation of palaeoenvironmental material will be sampled, by means of the most appropriate method (bulk, column etc). Where sampling will provide a significant contribution to the understanding of the site AW will draw up a site-specific sampling strategy alongside a specialist environmental archaeologist. All environmental sampling and recording and will **follow English Heritage's Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology (2002)**.

Human Remains

In the event that human remains are encountered, their nature and extent will be established and the coroner informed. All human remains will be left *in situ* and protected during backfilling. Where preservation *in situ* is not possible the human remains will be fully recorded and removed under conditions that comply with all current legislation and include acquisition of licenses and provision for reburial

following all analytical work. Human remains will be excavated in accordance with the **Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Excavation and Post-Excavation Treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Human Remains: Technical Paper Number 13** (1993).

Specialist Advisors

In the event of certain finds, features or sites being discovered, AW will seek specialist opinion and advice. A list of specialists is given in the table below although this list is not exhaustive.

Artefact type	Specialist
Flint	Kate Pitt (Archaeology Wales)
Animal bone	Richard Madgwick (Cardiff University)
CBM, heat affected clay, Daub etc.	Rachael Hall (APS)
Clay pipe	Hilary Major (Freelance)
Glass	Rowena Hart (Archaeology Wales)
Cremated and non-cremated human bone	Malin Holst (University of York)/Richard Madgwick (Cardiff University)
Metalwork	Kevin Leahy (University of Leicester)/ Quita Mold (Freelance)
Metal work and metallurgical residues	Dr Tim Young (GeoArch)
Neo/BA pottery	Dr Alex Gibson (Bradford University)
IA/Roman pottery	Jane Timby (Freelance)
Roman Pottery	Rowena Hart (Archaeology Wales)/ Peter Webster (Freelance)
Post Roman pottery	Stephen Clarke (Monmouthshire Archaeology)
Charcoal (wood ID)	John Carrot (Freelance)
Waterlogged wood	Nigel Nayling (University of Wales – Lampeter)
Molluscs and pollen	Dr James Rackham
Charred and waterlogged plant remains	Wendy Carruthers (Freelance)

Specialist reports

Specialist finds and palaeoenvironmental reports will be written by AW specialists, or sub-contracted to external specialists when required.

Monitoring

DAT-DM will be contacted approximately five days prior to the commencement of ground works, and subsequently once the work is underway.

Any changes to the specification that the contractor may wish to make after approval will be communicated to DAT-DM for approval on behalf of Planning Authority.

Representatives of DAT-DM will be given access to the site so that they may monitor

the progress of the field evaluation. No area will be back-filled, until DAT-DM has had the opportunity to inspect it, unless permission has been given in advance. DAT-DM will be kept regularly informed about developments, both during the site works and subsequently during post-excavation.

6. Post-fieldwork programme

Archive assessment

Site Archive

An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared in accordance with: Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) (Historic England 2006) upon completion of the project.

The site archive (including artefacts and samples) will be prepared in accordance with the National Monuments Record (Wales) agreed structure and deposited with an appropriate receiving organisation, in compliance with CIfA Guidelines (*Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*, 2014). The legal landowners consent will be gained for deposition of finds.

Analysis

Following a rapid review of the potential of the site archive, a programme of analysis and reporting will be undertaken. This will result in the following inclusions in the final report:

- Non-technical summary
- Location plan showing the area/s covered by the excavation, all artefacts, structures and features found
- Plan and section drawings (if features are encountered) with ground level, ordnance datum and vertical and horizontal scales.
- Written description and interpretation of all deposits identified, including their character, function, potential dating and relationship to adjacent features. Specialist descriptions and illustrations of all artefacts and soil samples will be included as appropriate.
- An indication of the potential of archaeological deposits which have not been disturbed by the development
- A discussion of the local, regional and national context of the remains by means of reviewing published reports, unpublished reports, historical maps, documents from local archives and the regional HER as appropriate.
- A detailed archive list at the rear listing all contexts recorded, all samples finds and find types, drawings and photographs taken. This will include a statement of the intent to deposit, and location of deposition, of the archive.

Reports and archive deposition

Reports to client

Copies of all reports associated with the archaeological excavation, together with inclusion of supporting evidence in appendices as appropriate, including photographs

and illustrations, will be submitted to AIEC and DAT-DM upon completion.

Additional reports

After an appropriate period has elapsed, copies of all reports will be deposited with the relevant county Historical Environment Record, the National Monuments Record and, if appropriate, Cadw.

Summary reports for publication

Short archaeological reports will be submitted for publication in relevant journals; as a minimum, a report will be submitted to the annual publication of the regional CBA group or equivalent journal.

Notification of important remains

Where it is considered that remains have been revealed that may satisfy the criteria for statutory protection, AW will submit preliminary notification of the remains to Cadw and also to DAT-DM.

Archive deposition

The final archive (site and research) will, whenever appropriate, be deposited with a suitable receiving institution, usually the relevant Local Authority museums service. Arrangements will be made with the receiving institution before work starts.

Although there may be a period during which client confidentiality will need to be maintained, copies of all reports and the final archive will be deposited no later than six months after completion of the work.

Copies of all reports, the digital archive and an archive index will be deposited with the *National Monuments Record*, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth.

Wherever the archive is deposited, this information will be relayed to the HER. A summary of the contents of the archive will be supplied to DAT-DM.

Finds deposition

The finds, including artefacts and ecofacts, excepting those which may be subject to the Treasure Act, will be deposited with the same institution, subject to the agreement of the legal land owners.

7. Staff

The project will be managed by Philip Poucher (AW Project Manager) and the fieldwork undertaken by Jerry Bond and Tom Jamieson (Archaeology Wales). Any alteration to staffing before or during the work will be brought to the attention of DAT-DM and AIEC.

Additional Considerations

8. Health and Safety

Risk Assessment

Prior to the commencement of work AW will carry out and produce a formal Health and Safety Risk Assessment in accordance with *The Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992*. A copy of the risk assessment will be kept on site and be available for inspection on request. A copy will be sent to the client (or their agent as necessary) for their information. All members of AW staff will adhere to the content of this document.

Other guidelines

AW will adhere to best practice with regard to Health and Safety in Archaeology as set out in the FAME (Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers) health and safety manual *Health and Safety in Field Archaeology (2002)*.

9. Insurance

AW is fully insured for this type of work, and holds Insurance with Aviva Insurance Ltd and Hiscox Insurance Company Limited through Towergate Insurance. Full details of these and other relevant policies can be supplied on request.

10. Quality Control

Professional Standards

AW works to the standards and guidance provided by the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists*. AW fully recognise and endorse the Chartered Institute for **Archaeologists'** *Code of Conduct, Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* and the *Standard and Guidance for archaeological excavations* currently in force. All employees of AW, whether corporate members of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists or not, are expected to adhere to these Codes and Standards during their employment.

Project tracking

The designated AW manager will monitor all projects in order to ensure that agreed targets are met without reduction in quality of service.

Arbitration

Disputes or differences arising in relation to this work shall be referred for a decision in accordance with the **Rules of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators'** *Arbitration Scheme for the Institute for Archaeologists* applying at the date of the agreement.

11. References

Bell, M. & Murphy, F 2016 *Proposed Centre of Innovation and Enterprise, Gogerddan Campus, University of Aberystwyth, Ceredigion: Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment* Dyfed Archaeological Trust Report No. 2016/33.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014 *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation*

Day, A. 2016 *Proposed Centre of Innovation and Enterprise, Gogerddan Campus, University of Aberystwyth, Ceredigion: Geophysical Survey* Dyfed Archaeological Trust Report No.2016/50.

Poucher, P 2016 *Gogerddan Campus, University of Aberystwyth, Ceredigion: Archaeological Evaluation* Archaeology Wales Report No.1498

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APPENDIX IV:
Archive Cover Sheet

ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

Gogerddan Campus, University of Aberystwyth, Ceredigion

Site Name:	Gogerddan Campus, University of Aberystwyth
Site Code:	GCA/17/EX
PRN:	13005 (Early medieval cemetery) 36859 (Gogerddan Park) 55942 (Prehistoric monument complex)
NPRN:	265098 (Gogerddan Park) 310262 (Plas Gogerddan cemetery) 404548 (Gogerddan Park Enclosure)
SAM:	CD259 Round Barrow and Standing Stone
Other Ref No:	-
NGR:	NGR SN 6268 8359
Site Type:	Agricultural fields/parkland
Project Type:	Excavation
Project Manager:	Philip Poucher
Project Dates:	January -February 2017
Categories Present:	All
Location of Original Archive:	AW
Location of duplicate Archives:	Paper copies with RCAHMW, Aberystwyth.
Number of Finds Boxes:	0
Location of Finds:	-
Museum Reference:	-
Copyright:	AW
Restrictions to access:	None

Archaeology Wales

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