Gilfach Nature Reserve

Archaeological Watching Brief

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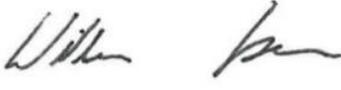
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Summary

The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) carried out a watching brief on behalf of the Radnorshire Wildlife Trust during the lifting of six stone slabs outside the byre at Gilfach Farm, which falls within the Gilfach Nature Reserve.

The slabs were large, flat, unworked stones which had been laid directly onto a gravelly sub-base. No finds, features or structural remain were revealed in the course of the groundworks.
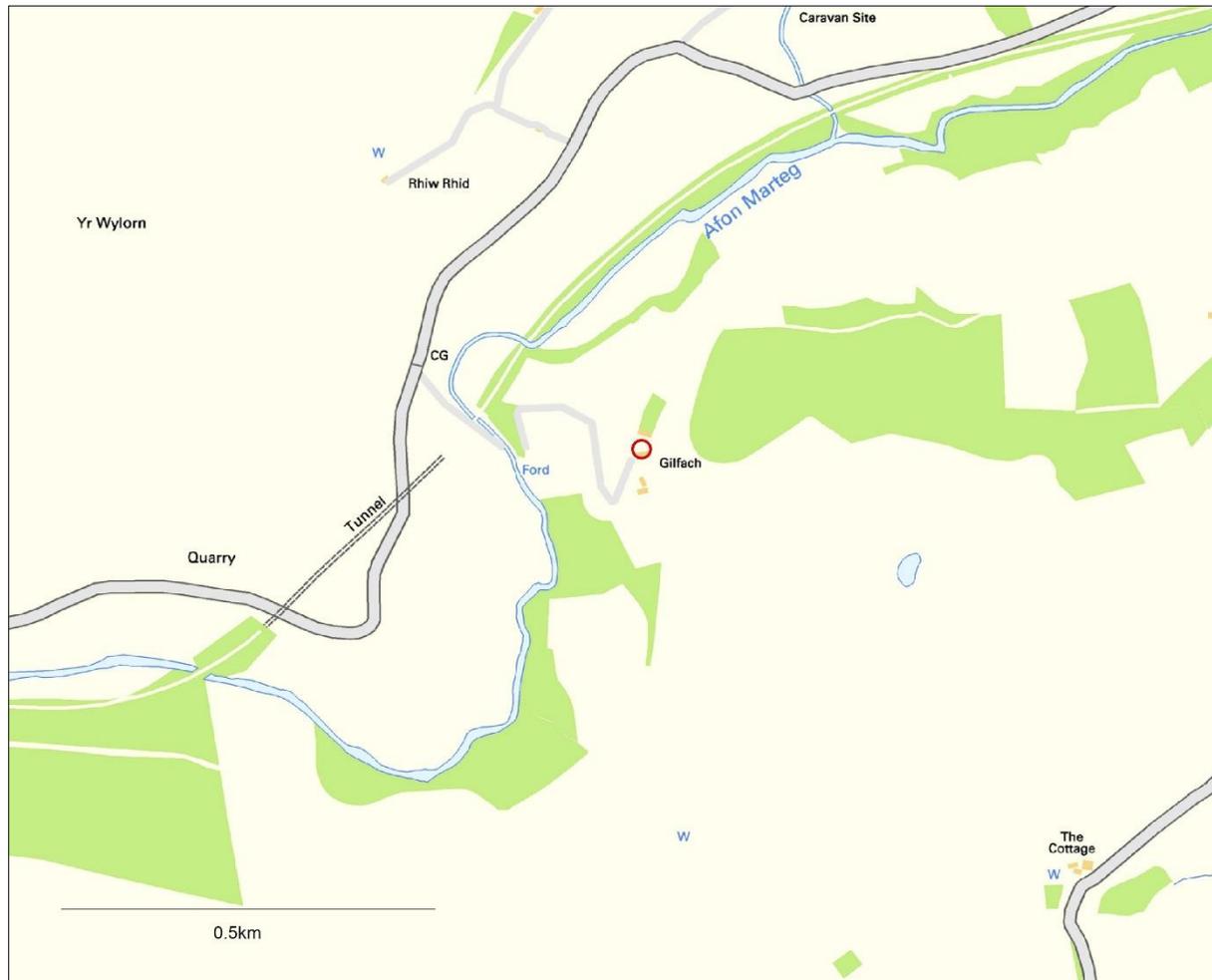
1   Introduction

1.1.   The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) carried out a watching brief on behalf of the Radnorshire Wildlife Trust during the lifting of six stone slabs outside the byre at Gilfach Farm (Fig. 1; SN 964 717), which falls within the Gilfach Nature Reserve.

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Fig. 1 Location plan showing Gilfach (marked in red)

1.2.   The farmhouse at Gilfach is a Grade II* listed late medieval longhouse of c1550, with one-bay hall, and cruck-frame, but with stone walls. It was converted to a storeyed house c1600 when a fireplace was inserted, but retained its original longhouse plan. It was enlarged c1700 when a parlour wing was added at the rear, incorporating ornate timberwork to the chamber above the parlour, perhaps indicating a dower house. The present lobby entry was created in the 19th century. The adjacent barn is 18th-century in date.

2   Watching Brief

2.1.   The groundworks comprised the removal of a number of stone slabs, located in front of the entrance to the byre, in order to build a pathway. The slabs (002) were large, flat irregular, unworked stones 0.1m thick, laid directly onto a gravelly sub base 0.15m thick (004). The gaps between the slabs had been pointed with modern cement mortar. Underlying the sub base material, a hard compacted mottled greyish red gritty clay (005) was exposed but not excavated into.

2.2.   No finds, features or structural remain were revealed in the course of these groundworks.

Fig. 2 View from the north of the entrance to the byre CPAT 4456-0002

Fig. 3 View from the north mid-excavation CPAT 4456-0006

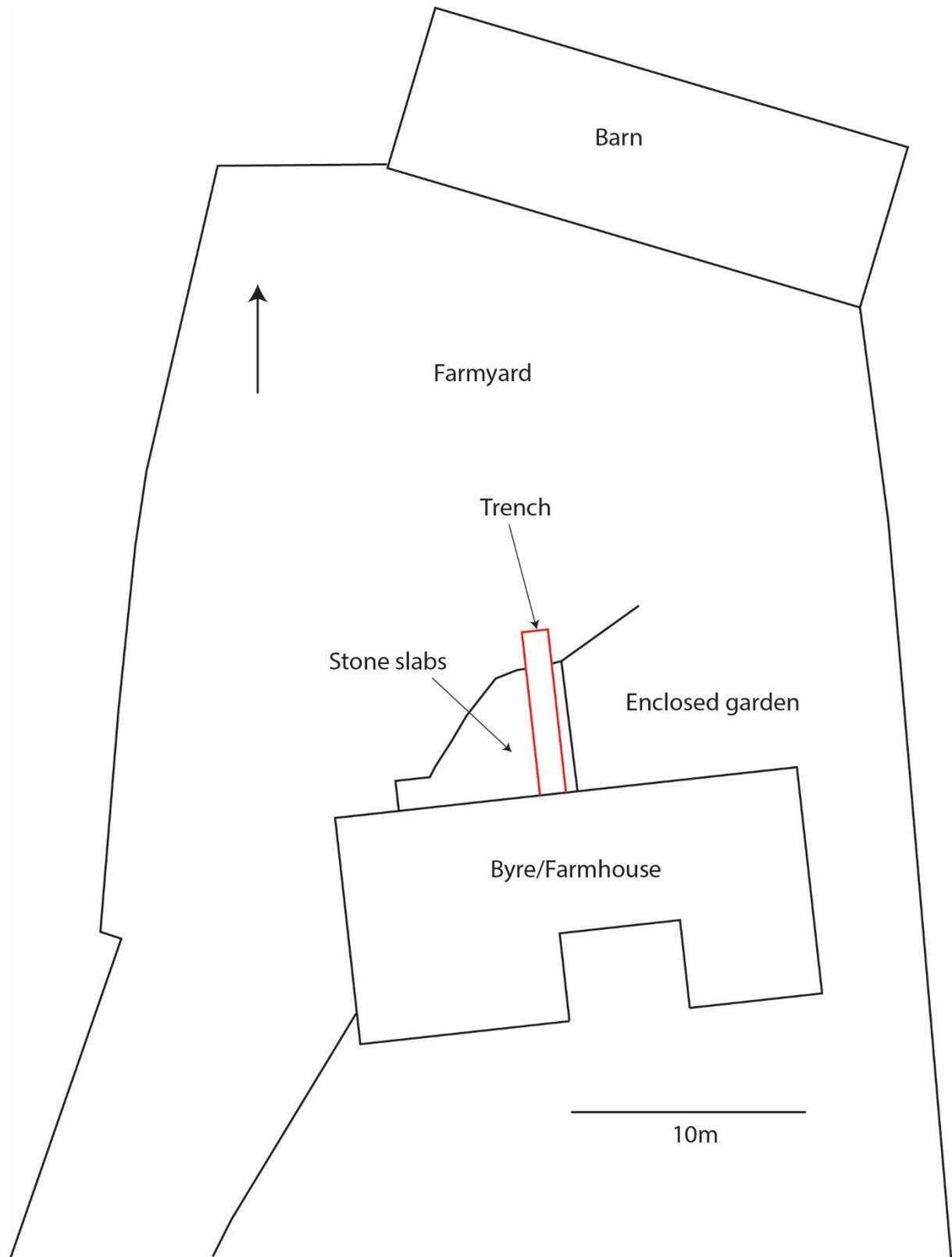Fig. 4 View from the south following excavation of pathway CPAT 4456-0008

Fig. 5 Trench location plan

3 Archive deposition Statement

3.1.   The project archive has been prepared according to the CPAT Archive Policy and in line with the CIfA *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives guidance* (2014). The digital archive only will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust and the paper/drawn/digital archive with the National Monuments Record (RCAHMW).

Archive Summary

CPAT Event PRN: 140222

1 watching brief record form

9 digital images, CPAT film no. 4456