

New Dwelling,  
Sarnau Farm,  
Trelech, Carmarthenshire

Strip Map Record

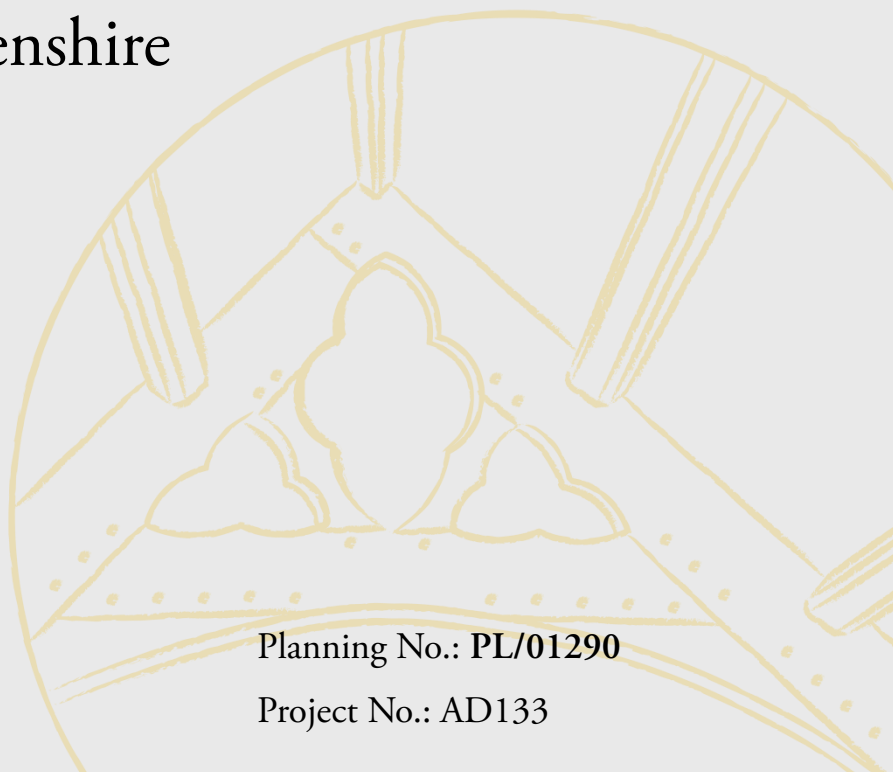
Ross Cook

NGR: SN 29292 32125

Date: May 2022

Planning No.: PL/01290

Project No.: AD133



**ArchaeoDomus**  
Archaeological & Heritage Services

3 Cysgod-y-Coed, Cwmann, Lampeter, Carms. SA48 8DN  
01570 218048 / 07910 213557  
ross.cook@archaeodomus.co.uk  
www.archaeodomus.co.uk

Prepared for:

Lloyd Howell

Sarnau Farm, Trelech, Carmarthen, SA33 6RP

Project No:

By:

ArchaeoDomus Archaeological & Heritage Services

LGF09, Creuddyn, Pontfaen Road, Lampeter, Ceredigion, SA48 7BN

Tel: +44 (0) 1570 218048 +44 (0) 7910 213557

Email: [ross.cook@archaeodomus.co.uk](mailto:ross.cook@archaeodomus.co.uk)

[www.archaeodomus.co.uk](http://www.archaeodomus.co.uk)

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## Acknowledgements

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With thanks to Lloyd Howells for commissioning this programme of archaeological investigation.

## Abbreviations used in this report

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HER	- Historic Environment Record.
DAT-DM	- Dyfed Archaeological Trust Development Management.
LPA	- Local Planning Authority.
NGR	- National Grid Reference.
NMR	- National Monuments Record.
OS	- Ordnance Survey.

All other abbreviations will be referred to in text.

## Project Team

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**Ross Cook** – A buildings archaeologist and dendrochronologist with a background in archaeology and buildings conservation. He has undertaken archaeological fieldwork throughout Wales and England, where he has also worked to produce detailed surveys of a wide range of Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings; this has included Ruthin Castle, Ludlow Castle Neath Abbey, Llansteffan Castle, Tretower Castle, Cilgerran Castle, Newport Castle Pembrokeshire, and Brymbo Ironworks. Ross is the Cathedral Archaeologist at St Davids Cathedral, and Consultant Archaeologist to Christchurch Priory, Dorset. He previously worked for the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales as a Historic Buildings Investigator (Archaeology), where he recorded buildings and Monuments, and provided advice on historic buildings at a national level. Currently he is involved in project work with Cadw, The Brymbo Heritage Group, and The Buildings of Medieval and Ottoman Palestine Research Project.

Ross also works as an Associate Dendrochronologist with the Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory, through which he has undertaken work on sites such as Hampton Court Palace, Winchester Cathedral, Queens House Greenwich, The Tower of London, Christ Church and Magdalen College Oxford, Llwyn Celyn (Mons), and a large number of other smaller listed buildings and scheduled sites throughout Wales and England.

ArchaeoDomus Archaeological & Heritage Services is the trading name of Ross Cook, an affiliate member of the CifA, adhering to the CifA codes of conduct.

Cert. in Buildings Archaeology – University of Sussex, CCE.

PGCert. Social Anthropology – University of Wales, Lampeter

BA Joint Honours Archaeology & Anthropology – University of Wales, Lampeter

## New Dwelling, Sarnau Farm, Trelech, Carmarthenshire

### Strip Map Record

#### Summary

---

*ArchaeoDomus was commissioned by Lloyd Howells to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation and undertake a Strip Map Record prior to the commencement of a programme to construct a Rural Enterprise Workers Dwelling at Sarnau Farm, Trelech, Carmarthenshire. The aim of this work has been to enable development whilst monitoring for any potential archaeological resource.*

*The plans propose the construction of a single rural enterprise workers dwelling to be built in the south-east corner of a large field, currently use for grazing dairy cattle. The archaeological advisors to Carmarthenshire Council Planning, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Development Management, recommended archaeological conditions be applied to planning consent due to the location of the site within in a Bronze Age landscape containing burial mounds.*

*Fieldwork was commenced on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022 and concluded the same day.*

*The Strip Map Record revealed that the top and subsoils have been disturbed by historic and modern plough action. Two areas of burning were identified during the SMR, with one sitting neatly on undisturbed natural subsoil and is likely to be a single event fire relating to the prehistoric period. The second, larger area, is likely to be relating to burnt scrub and hedgerow material in the modern period, subsequently turned in during ploughing.*

*No further archaeological features or deposits were identified.*

## Annedd Newydd, Fferm Sarnau, Trelech, Sir Gaerfyrddin

Cofnod Map Stribe

### Crynodeb

---

*Comisiynwyd ArchaeoDomus gan Lloyd Howells i baratoi Cynllun Ymchwilio Ysgrifenedig a chynnal Cofnod Map Stribed cyn dechrau rhaglen i adeiladu Annedd Gweithwyr Menter Wledig yn Fferm Sarnau, Trelech, Sir Gaerfyrddin. Nod y gwaith hwn oedd galluogi datblygiad wrth fonitro ar gyfer unrhyw adnodd archeolegol posibl.*

*Mae'r cynlluniau'n cynnig adeiladu un annedd gweithwyr menter wledig i'w hadeiladu yng nghornel deddwyreiniol cae mawr, a ddefnyddir ar hyn o bryd ar gyfer pori gwartheg godro. Argymhellodd y cynghorwyr archeolegol i Gyngor Sir Gaerfyrddin Planning, Rheoli Datblygu Ymddiriedolaeth Archeolegol Dyfed, y dylid cymhwyso amodau archeolegol i ganiatâd cynllunio oherwydd lleoliad y safle mewn tirwedd o'r Oes Efydd sy'n cynnwys twmpathau claddu.*

*Dechreuwyd ar y gwaith maes ar 14 Ebrill 2022 a gorffennyd ar yr un diwrnod.*

*Datgelodd y Cofnod Map Strip fod camau aredig hanesyddol a modern wedi tarfu ar y brig a'r isbridd. Nodwyd dau faes llosgi yn ystod y SMR, gydag un yn eistedd yn daclus ar isbridd heb ei selio ac mae'n debygol o fod yn dân un digwyddiad sy'n ymwneud â'r cyfnod cynhanesyddol. Mae'r ail ardal fwy, yn debygol o fod yn gysylltiedig â phrysgwydd a deunydd gwrychoedd wedi'u llosgi yn y cyfnod modern, wedi'i droi i mewn wedyn wrth aredig.*

*Ni nodwyd unrhyw nodweddion na dyddodion archeolegol pellach.*



## 1 INTRODUCTION

---

### 1.1 General

- 1.1.1 ArchaeoDomus was commissioned to undertake an archaeological programme of works prior to the development of land for the provision of a new rural enterprise workers dwelling at Sarnau Farm, Trelech, Carmarthenshire (hereafter also referred to as ‘the site’). This work included a Written Scheme of Investigation (ArchaeoDomus 2022) and a Strip Map Record (SMR). This project has been commissioned by Lloyd Howells, owner and farmer of Sarnau Farm.



*Fig. 1 – Development site.*

### 1.2 Background

- 1.2.1 Planning permission was granted on the 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021 under number **PL/01290**. Permission allows for the ‘*Construction of [a] Rural Enterprise Workers Dwelling*’. With permission Archaeological Conditions were recommended by Dyfed Archaeological Trust Development Management (DAT-DM) to the Local Planning Authority, in line with Planning Policy Wales section 6.5.7, and TAN 24 sections 4.13 and 4.14. The conditions states:

*7. No development shall take place until a qualified and competent archaeologist has submitted a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for approval in writing by the local planning authority. This WSI will describe the different stages of the work and demonstrate that it has been fully resourced and given adequate time. On behalf of the local planning authority, their*



*archaeological advisors (DAT DM) will monitor all aspects of this work through to the final discharging of the condition. This work will not be deemed complete until all aspects of the WSI have been addressed and the final report submitted and approved.*

***Reason:***

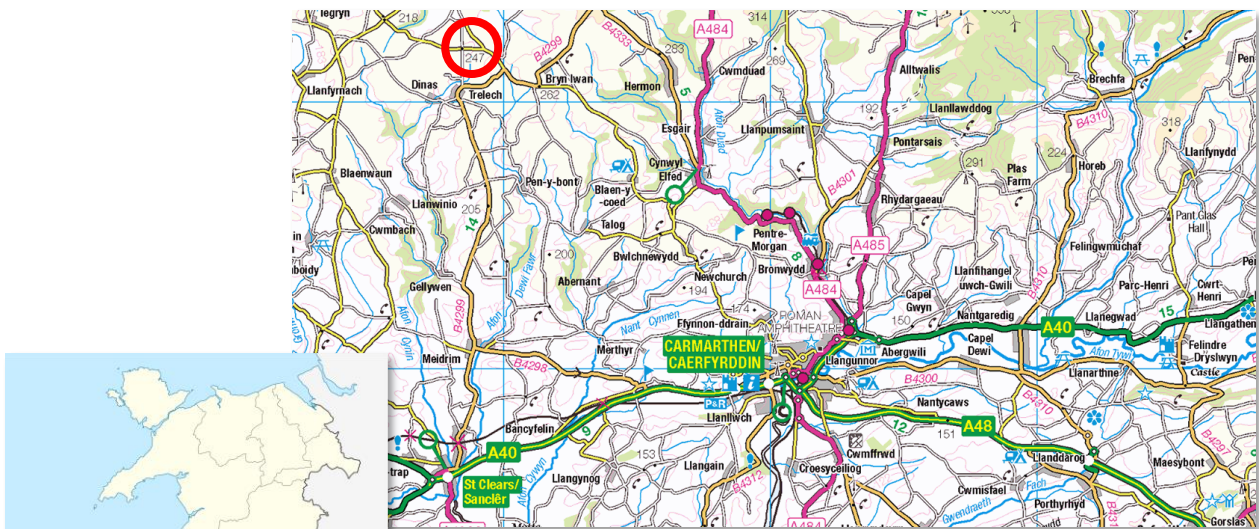
*7. To protect historic environment interests whilst enabling development in accordance with Policy SP13 of the Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan 2014.).*

- 1.2.2 The Local Planning Authority is Carmarthenshire County Council, and the planning application number is **PL/01290**. Documentation relating to the application are available on request from the authority.
- 1.2.3 The purpose for the SMR is to provide information to Dyfed Archaeological Trust Development Management and Carmarthenshire County Council with information regarding any archaeological resources on site. Requirements for this are set out in Planning Policy Wales, Section 6.1 (Edition 11, Dec 2021), and sections 4.13 and 4.14 of TAN 24: The Historic Environment (2017). This framework ensures that heritage assets, archaeological remains and deposits are fully investigated, recorded and catalogued if they are uncovered as a result of activities associated with the development.
- 1.2.4 The fieldwork was commenced 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022 and concluded the same day. It was undertaken in accordance with the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (ArchaeoDomus 2022) and in line with the guidance laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, *CIfA Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014; updated 2020).
- 1.2.5 All work was undertaken by a qualified archaeologist.
- 1.2.6 This report documents the results of the Strip Map Record.

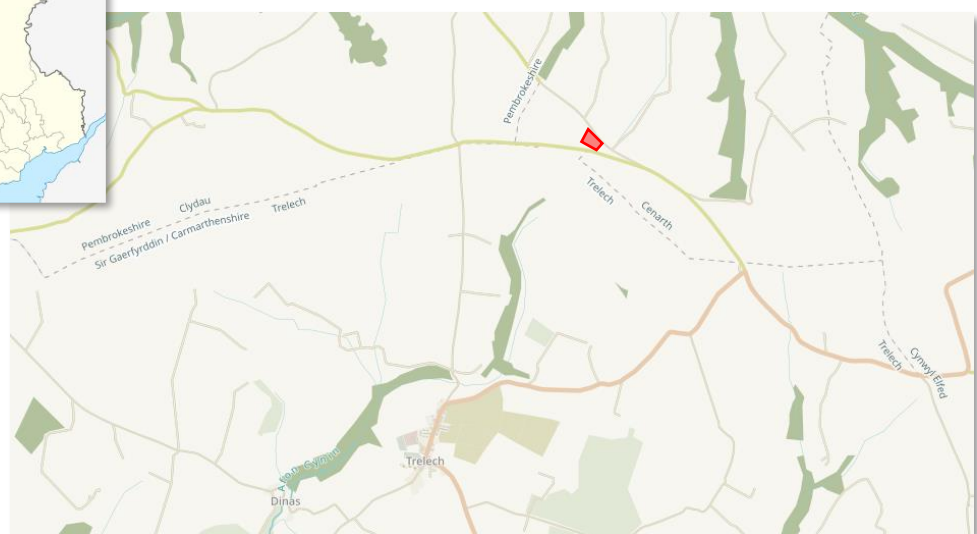
## 2 SITE AND LOCATION

### 2.1 General

2.1.1 The development site is located in a large field 100m to the west of Sarnau Farm, Trelech, in the county of Carmarthenshire. The farm forms part of the disbursed farming community surrounding the village of Trelech and lies some 1.9km to the northeast of its centre. The site is located between the fork of two unclassified roads, within the open farmland of northwest Carmarthenshire, close to the eastern boarder of Pembrokeshire. The nearest place of worship is Capel y Graig Independent Chapel, located 2km to the southwest of the development site. The nearest watercourse is a minor stream to the north, which feeds into the Afon Sylgen. The site sits at circa 231m above sea level and is centred around SN 29292 32125 / 51°57'41"N 004°29'10"W / leans.scooters.funky.



*Fig. 2 – Location – Development Site.  
OpenStreetMap 2022. All rights reserved.*



*Fig. 3 – Location – Development Area (red)  
OS OpenData © Crown copyright and database right 2022.*

## 2.2 Geology

- 2.2.1 The underlying geology is formed of an interbedded mudstone and sandstone formation known as the Nantmel Mudstone Formation (BGS) with no superficial deposits recorded (BGS). The local soil type is a freely draining, acidic loamy soil over rock (UKSO), classified as a Umbrisol (UKSO).

## **3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

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### **3.1 Introduction**

- 3.1.1 This archaeological background has been compiled from readily available materials and information contained within the regional HER.
- 3.1.2 A HER search, with a radius of 500m, showed there to be 2 Scheduled Monuments and no Listed Buildings.
- 3.1.3 The development site is located within the parish of Kilhedyn, in the medieval Welsh Commote of Uwch Cych and Cantref of Emlyn.

### **3.2 Previous Archaeological Events**

- 3.2.1 In 2012, Dyfed Archaeological Trust were commissioned by Cadw to undertake a geophysical survey of the Trychrug Prehistoric Cemetery (2010/9; 98685).

### **3.3 Bronze Age**

- 3.3.1 The Bronze Age provides the earliest evidence for human settlement within the search area. The nearest surviving of this evidence is a burial mound known as Carreg Wen (CM318; PRN 10747), 140m to the southwest, which was recorded as having a large quartz stone by DAT in 1984, though missing on subsequent visits in 2000. To the southeast, the Trychrug Cemetery is formed of three burial mounds (CM090/PRN 42576 – 1132; 1133; 1134). The geophysical survey (2010/9; 98685) showed there to be the possible remains of a fourth barrow surviving, though possibly of a differing form to the three visible above ground.

### **3.4 Roman**

- 3.4.1 No Roman sites were identified within the search area.

### **3.5 Early Medieval**

- 3.5.1 No Medieval site were recorded within the search area.

### **3.6 Medieval**

- 3.6.1 No Medieval site were recorded within the search area. However, a site below Cilfach-Gam Farm is reputed to be the location of the medieval manor house of Cadifor Fawr of Blaen Cych, who died in 1091-2 (PRN 24912).

### **3.7 Post-Medieval**

- 3.7.1 As with most of Wales, the post-medieval period is better represented in the archaeological record, with good preservation of sites and buildings. Two sites are recorded in the HER, with Sarnau Farm (PRN 113363) and Capel Blaen Cych (PRN 15294) both being recorded for the first time in the late-19th century.
- 3.7.2 The name Sarnau is first recorded as a name on the Ordnance Survey First Series map of 1831, where it is recorded as Pant-y- Sarnau. However, it does not appear to be associated with any buildings or farm and is not on the later Tithe of 1842. The farm first appears on the First Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1889, and again in the same form on the Second Edition of 1906. The Ordnance Survey maps do show that the proposed development area at this time was divided from the rest of the field by a fence.
- 3.7.3 Mapping demonstrated that the field boundaries in this area have been changed several times over the past 200 years.

## 4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

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### 4.1 Strip Map Record

- 4.1.1 The aims of the SMR are in line with those of an archaeological excavation, as defined by the CIfA (2014; updated 2020) as:

*“a programme of controlled, intrusive fieldwork with defined research objectives, which examines, records and interprets archaeological deposits, features and structures and, as appropriate, retrieves artefacts, ecofacts and other remains within a specified area or site on land, in an inter-tidal zone or underwater. The records made and objects gathered during fieldwork are studied and the results of that study published in detail appropriate to the project design.*

*The purpose of excavation is to examine the archaeological resource within a given area or site within a framework of defined research objectives, to seek a better understanding of and compile a lasting record of that resource, to analyse and interpret the results, and disseminate them’*

- 4.1.2 To strip the footprint of the house, driveway, and service areas to identify and record any potential archaeological resource in advance of the commencement of the construction programme.
- 4.1.3 Identify and record any archaeological resource that may help to improve our knowledge of the local historic environment.

### 4.2 Results

- 4.2.1 To communicate the results of the archaeological investigation to the client in the form of an illustrated report, and to provide digital copies to Dyfed Archaeological Trust Development Management, Regional HER and the NMRW.
- 4.2.2 To prepare a digital archive of the projects report, photographic archive, all drawn elements for deposition with the National Monuments Record of Wales and Regional HER held by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust.
- 4.2.3 To safely store all material finds in a secure location on site for future detailed recording and analysis, and specialist reporting.



## 5 METHODOLOGY

---

### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 All archaeological works have been conducted by a qualified archaeologist in accordance with the methodology set out in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (ArchaeoDomus 2021) and in accordance with the *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (November 2014) from the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

### 5.2 Strip Map Record

5.2.1 All excavations were undertaken by 360° tracked excavator, under the constant supervision of an archaeologist. Topsoil was removed to reveal the natural subsoil. The generated spoil was visually inspected to maximise the recovery of archaeological artefacts.

5.2.2 Areas of potential archaeological features were cleaned by hand to determine their extent.

5.2.3 A general photographic record was made using a Pixel 5 12-megapixel camera, with ranging rods used where required.

5.2.4 The archive for the site is held by ArchaeoDomus.

5.2.5 For the full methodology refer to the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (ArchaeoDomus 2022).

### 5.3 Recording

5.3.1 Areas of excavation were recorded using RTK-GPS, from which the SMR plan was drawn.

5.3.2 A digital photographic record was maintained throughout with a Pixel 5 12-megapixel camera. 2 x 1m ranging rods or smaller photo scales were used for scale where appropriate.

5.3.3 All photographs have been named using the project code, in this instance AD133, which are followed by a reference and number. Where applicable, the following reference codes have been used:

❖ SMR – Strip Map Record

5.3.4 All photographs in this report are watermarked with the photograph's name, code, and number.

#### **5.4 Reinstatement**

5.4.1 On completion of the excavations, topsoil will be reinstated, with excess carted away.

#### **5.5 Documentary Research**

5.5.1 Documentary research was undertaken using readily available resources with additional research aided by map regression and Tithe Map searches. Historic trade directories were used to help establish a timeline of events for the building. Further research was undertaken using unpublished and published sources.

#### **5.6 Reporting**

5.6.1 This report has been written and compiled by Ross Cook, according to the guidance laid down in the CIfA's *Standards and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (2014; updated 2020).

5.6.2 This report has been written in Microsoft Word 2016 and uses Adobe Garamond Pro as its typeface.

#### **5.7 Health and Safety**

5.7.1 All work was carried out in accordance with the *Health and Safety at Work Act 1974* and *Health and Safety Advice in Archaeology* (BAJR 2005).

## 6 FIELDWORK RESULTS

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### 6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 The SMR was commenced on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022 and concluded the same day.
- 6.1.2 In this section, the results of the SMR are presented. The extent of the excavations is shown in **Appendix II**, and the photographic archive in **Appendix III**.
- 6.1.3 The SMR exposed an area of *circa* 868m<sup>3</sup>.
- 6.1.4 All excavations were undertaken by a 360° tracked excavator, with toothless grading bucket.
- 6.1.5 Excavations were monitored by a qualified archaeologist and monitored for archaeological deposits and features.

### 6.2 Stratigraphy

- 6.2.1 The stratigraphic sequence for the site is presented in **Appendix IV**.
- 6.2.2 The stratigraphy within the development area was natural, with some plough disturbance.

### 6.3 Archaeological Result

- 6.3.1 An area of *circa* 31m x 28m was opened during the course of the SMR. The area was aligned to the unnamed road immediately to the sites north. The area of excavation is presented in **Appendix II**.
- 6.3.2 Excavations removed the turf and humus (101), and topsoil (102), which exposed the natural subsoil surface of two differing types (103; 104). Large areas of the natural subsoil were disturbed by plough action (105). Two burnt areas (106; 107) were observed on top of the subsoil.
- 6.3.3 Contexts 106 and 107 were investigated by hand, which showed the deposits to be a thin layer of <0.3cm depth.
- 6.3.4 *No further archaeological materials or deposits were identified.*

#### **6.4 Finds**

6.4.1 No small finds were recovered during the course of the SMR.

6.4.2 No small finds were recovered from the spoil.

6.4.3 *No archaeological finds were observed or recovered during the SMR.*

#### **6.5 Environmental**

6.5.1 *No environmental deposits for sampling were identified during the SMR.*

## 7 DISCUSSION

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- 7.1 The strip map record demonstrated that there were no significant archaeological features or deposits within the development.
- 7.2 Plough action in the post-medieval and modern periods has disturbed the natural subsoil, with any potential archaeological resource having been destroyed by this.
- 7.3 The two areas of burning (106; 107) may be prehistoric in date. However, anecdotal evidence suggests that at least one of these (107) is possibly the result of scrub and hedgerow clearance and burning in the modern period, being turned in by later ploughing, and is confirmed by the disturbed natural subsoil (105) in which it is located. The smaller area of burning (106) sits directly onto the natural subsoil (104), which seems to have escaped plough action, and is more likely to be prehistoric in date, though no small finds or datable material was present that could confirm this.
- 7.4 *No further mitigation for the historic environment is recommended.*

## 8 ARCHIVING

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- 8.1 The results of the Watching Brief are this written report, interpreted survey, and photographic archive. The final report and site archive will be held by ArchaeoDomus. The digital report will be deposited with the regional HER and the NMR. A PDF copy of the report will be made available from [www.archaeodomus.co.uk](http://www.archaeodomus.co.uk).
- 8.2 The small finds archive will be held by ArchaeoDomus, with the site archive and a copy of this report.

## 9 SOURCES

---

### 9.1 Written Sources

- 9.1.1 CIFA, 2014, *Standards and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*.
- 9.1.2 Welsh Government, 2017, *Planning Policy Wales; Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment*. Crown Copyright.
- 9.1.3 CIFA, 2007, *Archaeological Archives; a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*
- 9.1.4 Historic England, 2011, *Environmental Archaeology; A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recover to post-excavation*

### 9.2 Online Sources

- 9.2.1 **British Geological Survey**  
Accessed: May 2021  
[www.bsg.ac.uk](http://www.bsg.ac.uk)
- 9.2.2 **UK Soil Observatory**  
Accessed: May 2021  
[www.ukso.org.uk](http://www.ukso.org.uk)
- 9.2.3 **Welsh Tithe Maps**  
Accessed: May 2021



places.library.wales

### **9.3 Maps**

9.3.1 1889 OS 25 Inch to One Mile Map First Edition – Carmarthenshire

9.3.2 1906 OS 1:25000 Map Second Edition – Carmarthenshire

## APPENDIX I

### Historic Mapping

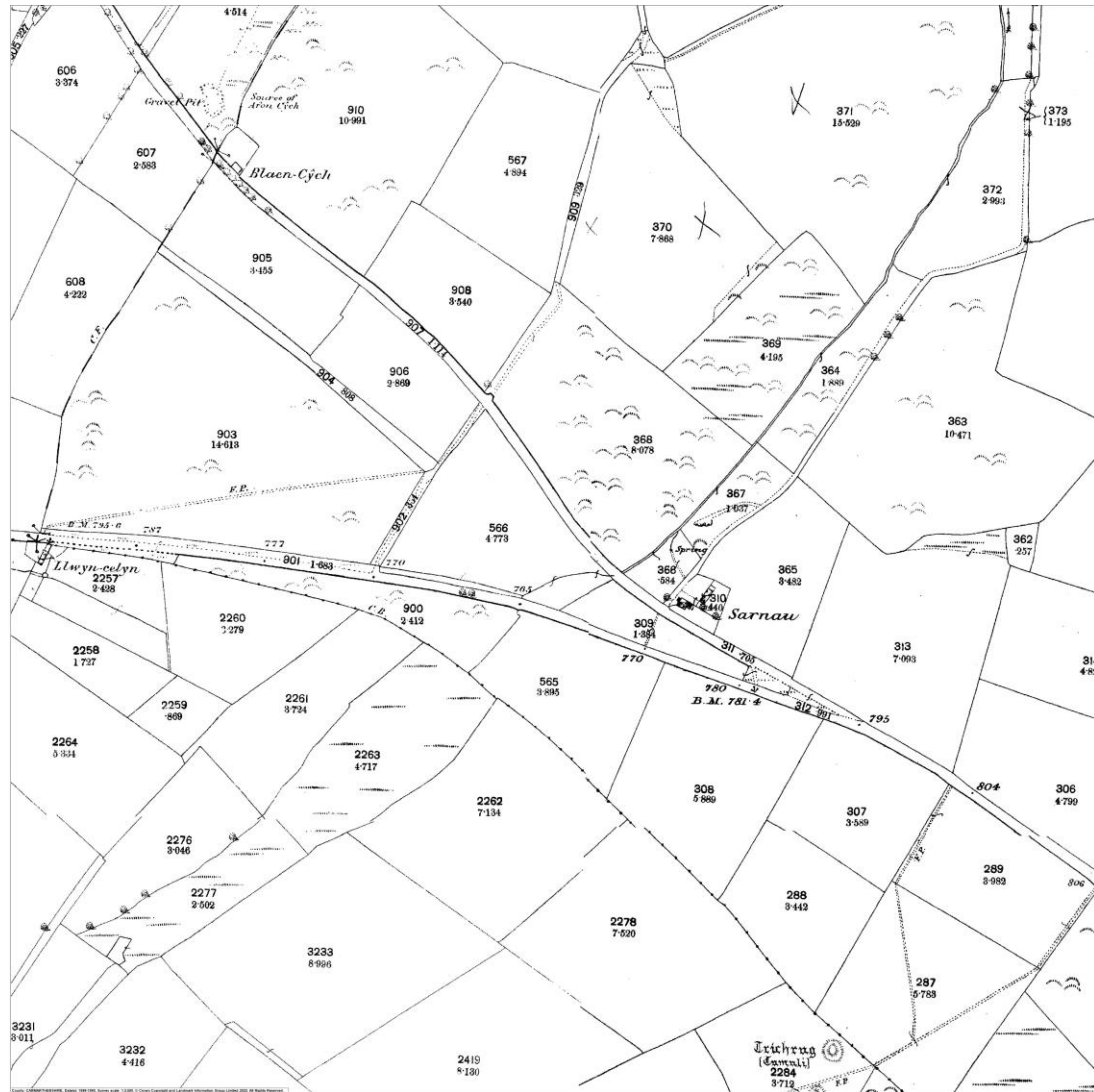


Fig. 4 – 1889 25 Inch to One Mile, OS.  
 © Landmark Information Group Limited 2022.

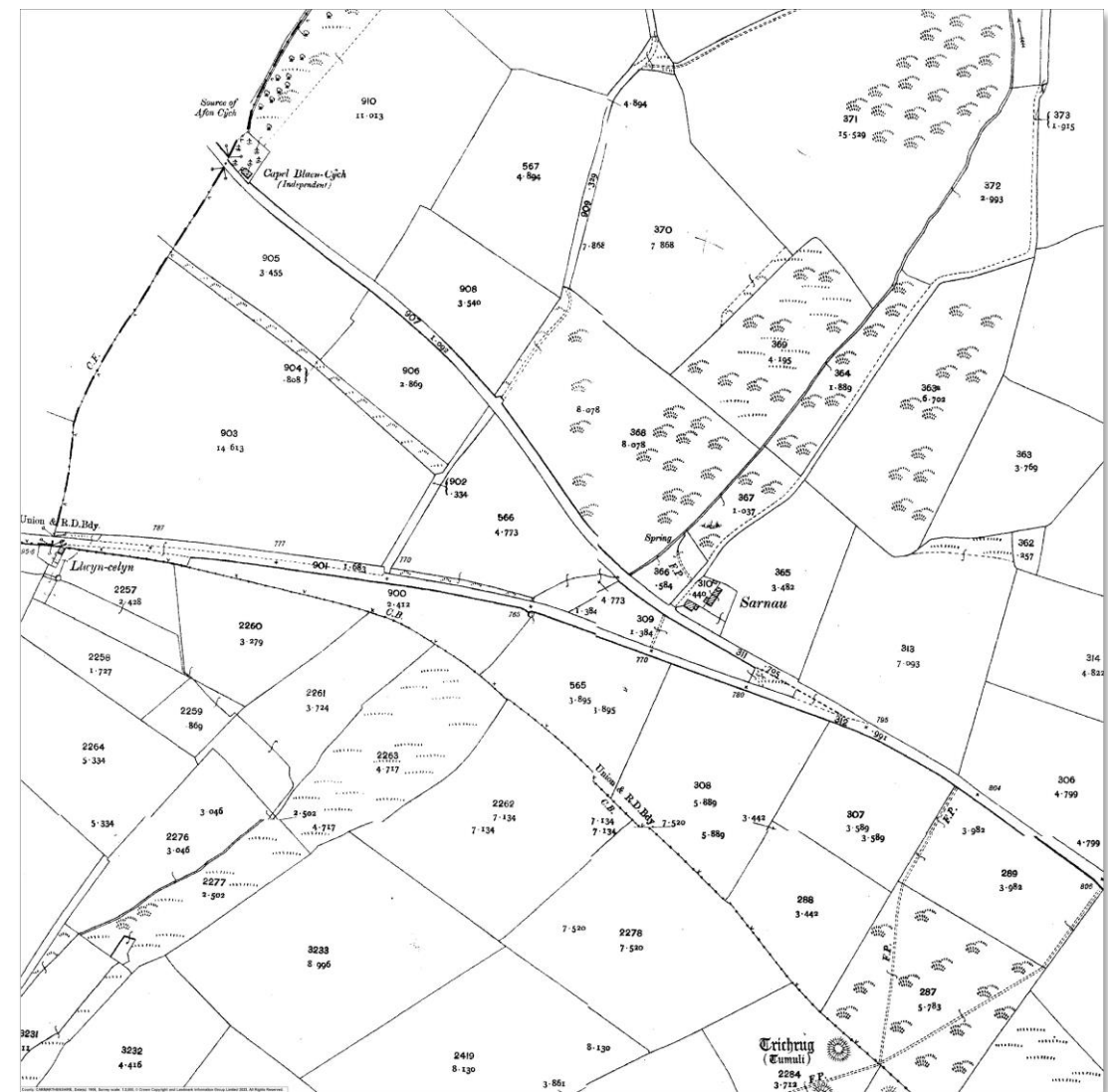


Fig. 5 – 1906 25 Inch to One Mile, OS.  
 © Landmark Information Group Limited 2022.

## APPENDIX II

### Plans

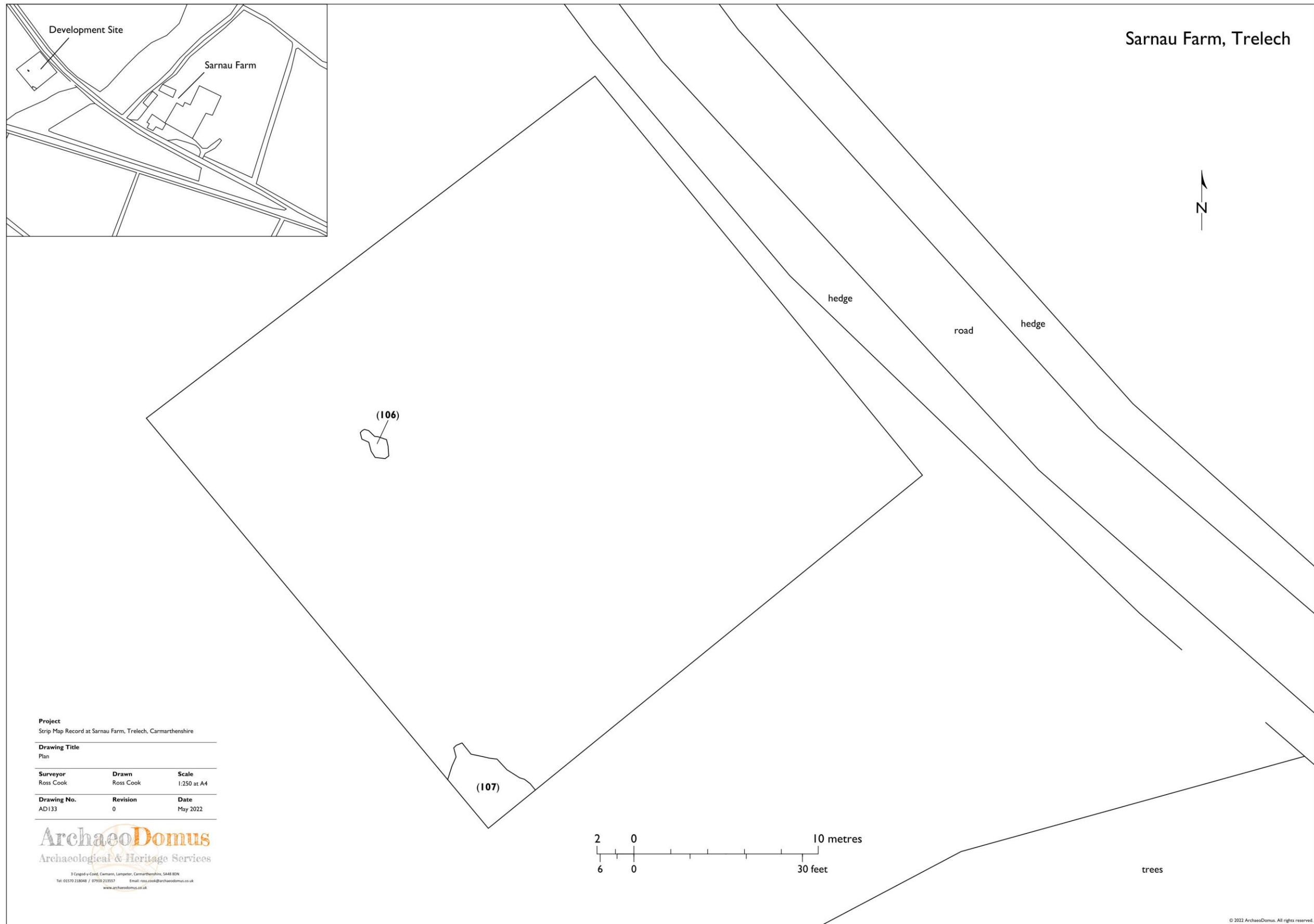


Fig. 6 – Development Area Plan

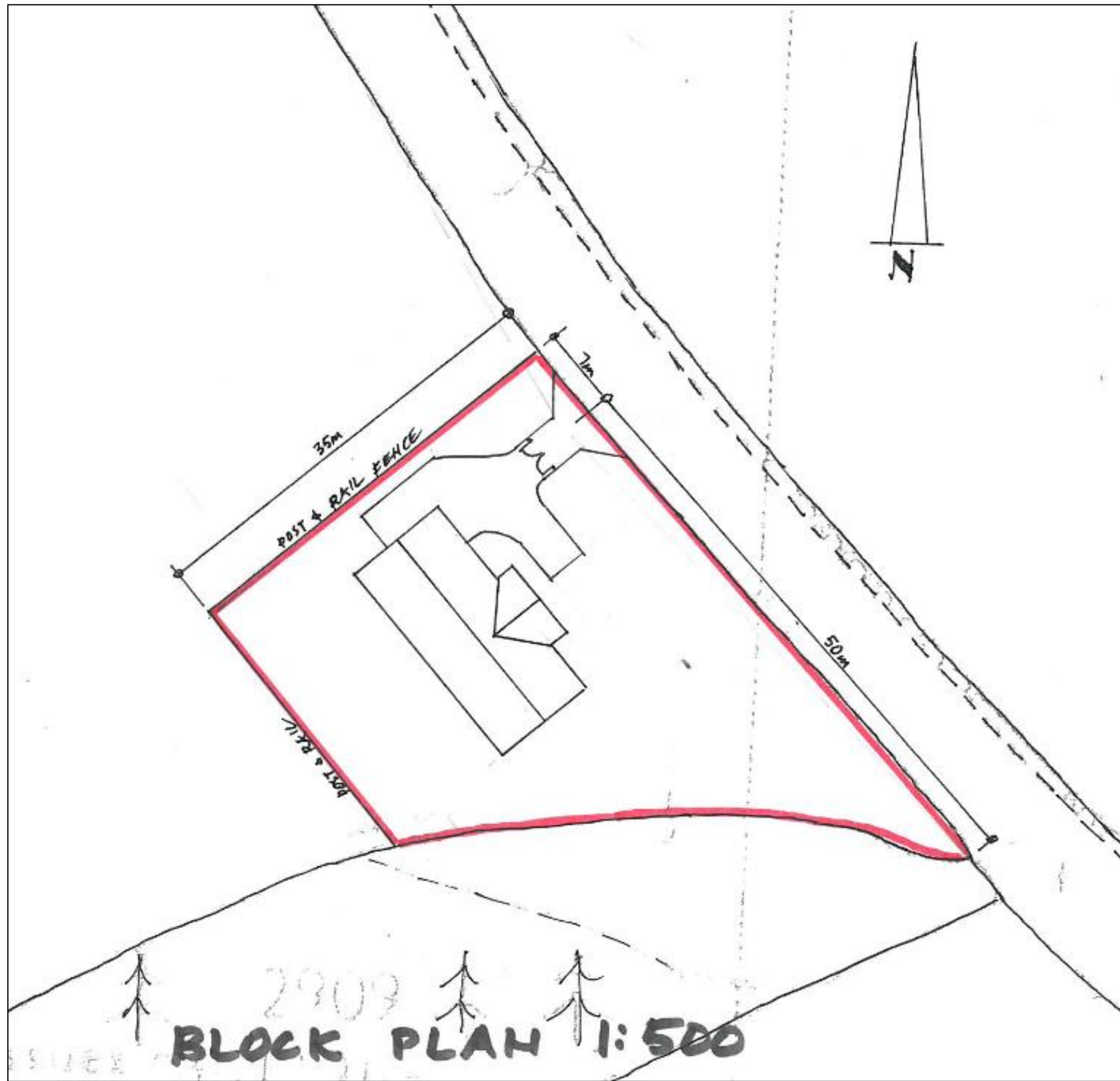
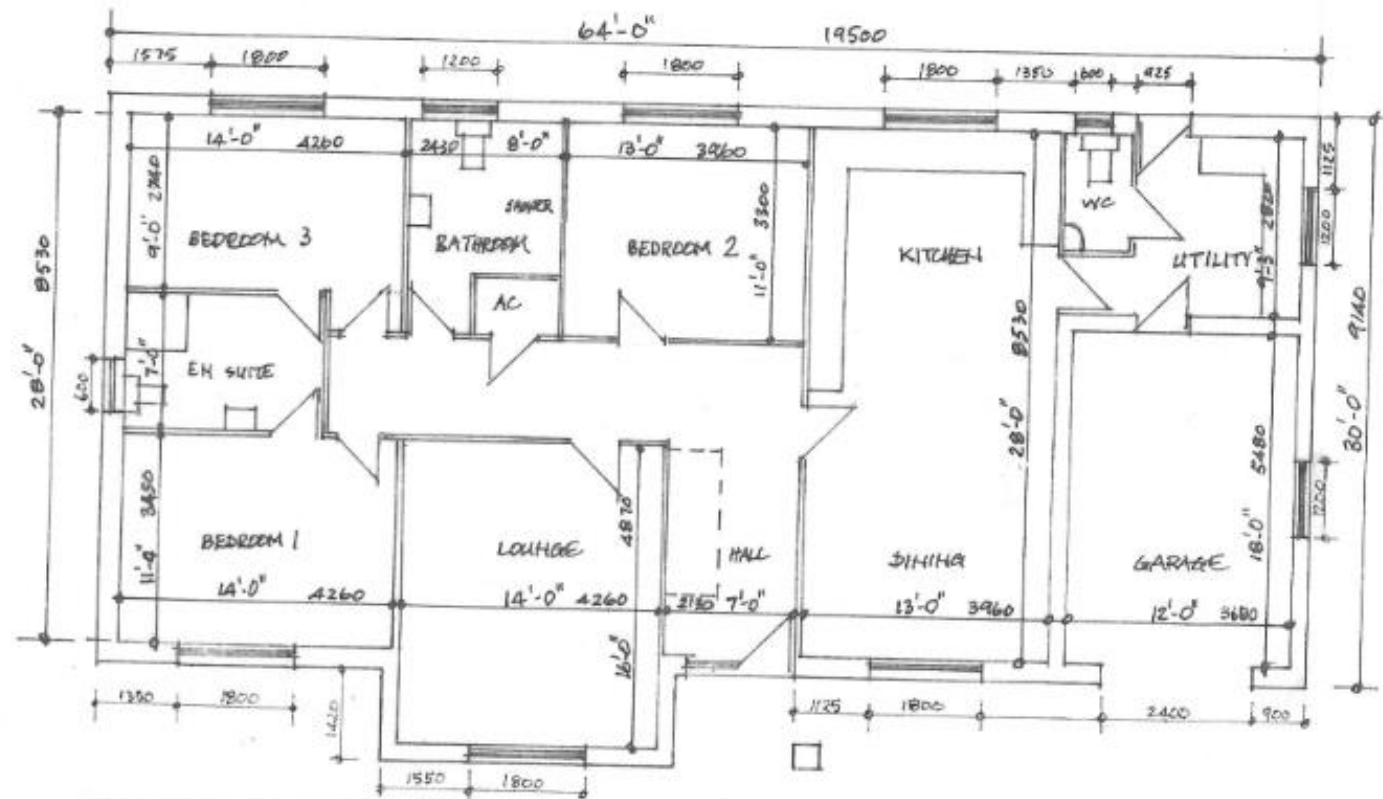


Fig. 7 – Block Plan





**FRONT ELEVATION**

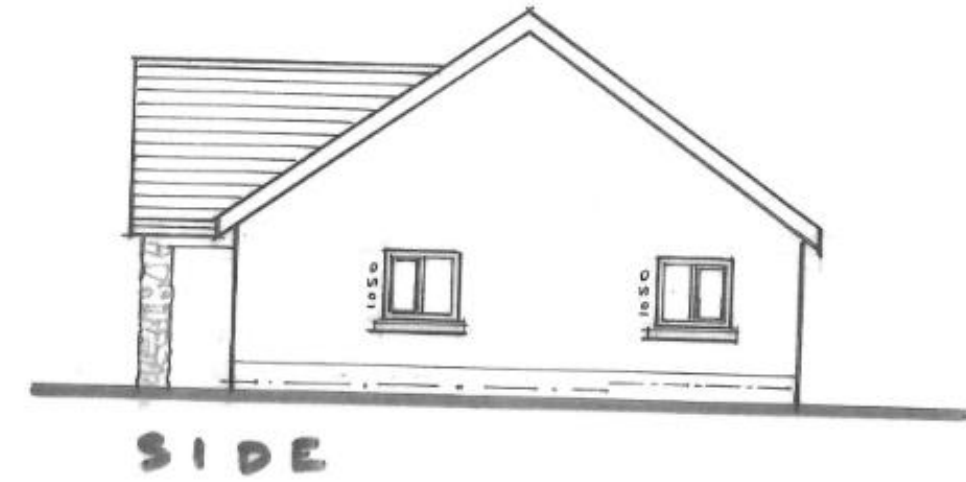
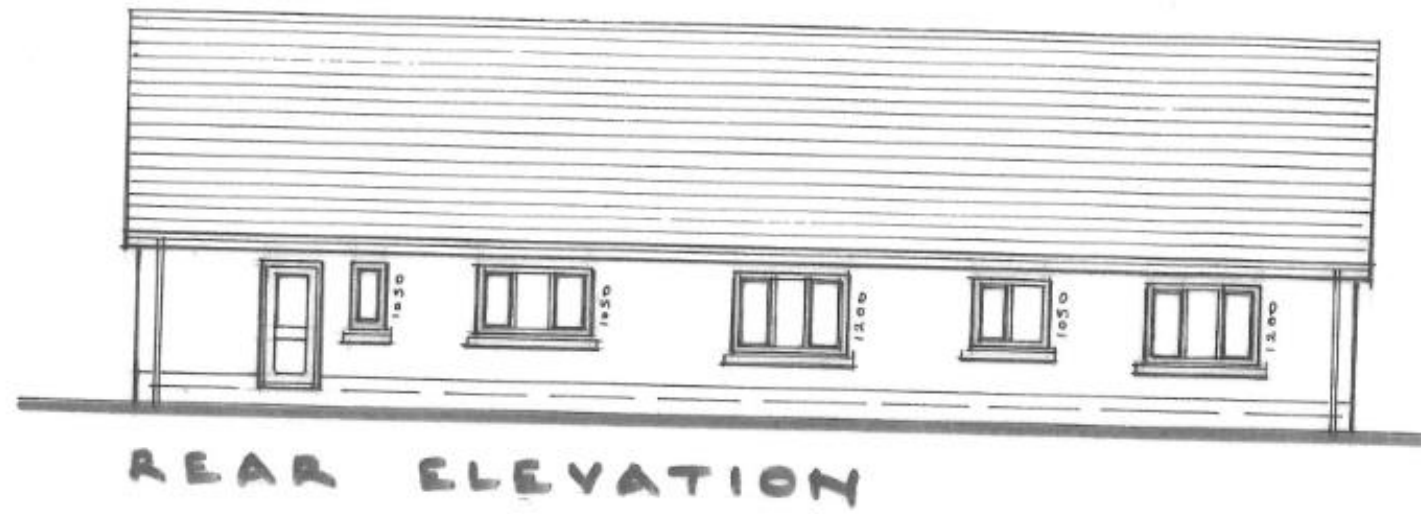


**FLOOR PLAN**

**PROPOSED BUNGALOW AT SARNAU, TRELECH**

partneriaeth <b>HAROLD METCALFE</b> partnership 32 Spilman Street, Carmarthen, Dyfed, Wales tel. Carmarthen (01267) 237427 fax. 238693 pensaer ; architect		
Job Title	Scale 1:100	Revision
	Date JUNE 2020	
Drawing Title	Drawn	Dr. No.
	Checked	C/4717/1

Fig. 8 - Proposed Plan and Elevation



**BUNGALOW AT SARNAU, TRELECH**

partneriaeth HAROLD METCALFE partnership		pensaer : architect	
32 Spilman Street, Carmarthen, Dyfed, Wales tel. Carmarthen (01267) 237427 fax. 238693			
Job Title	Scale	1:100	Revision
	Date	July 2022	
Drawing Title	Drawn		Dr. No.
	Checked		C/4717/2

Fig. 9 – Proposed Elevations

## APPENDIX III

**Strip Map Record**

**Photographic Archive**





Plate 1 – View north, showing development site.



Plate 2 – View south-east, showing plough action to natural subsoil.



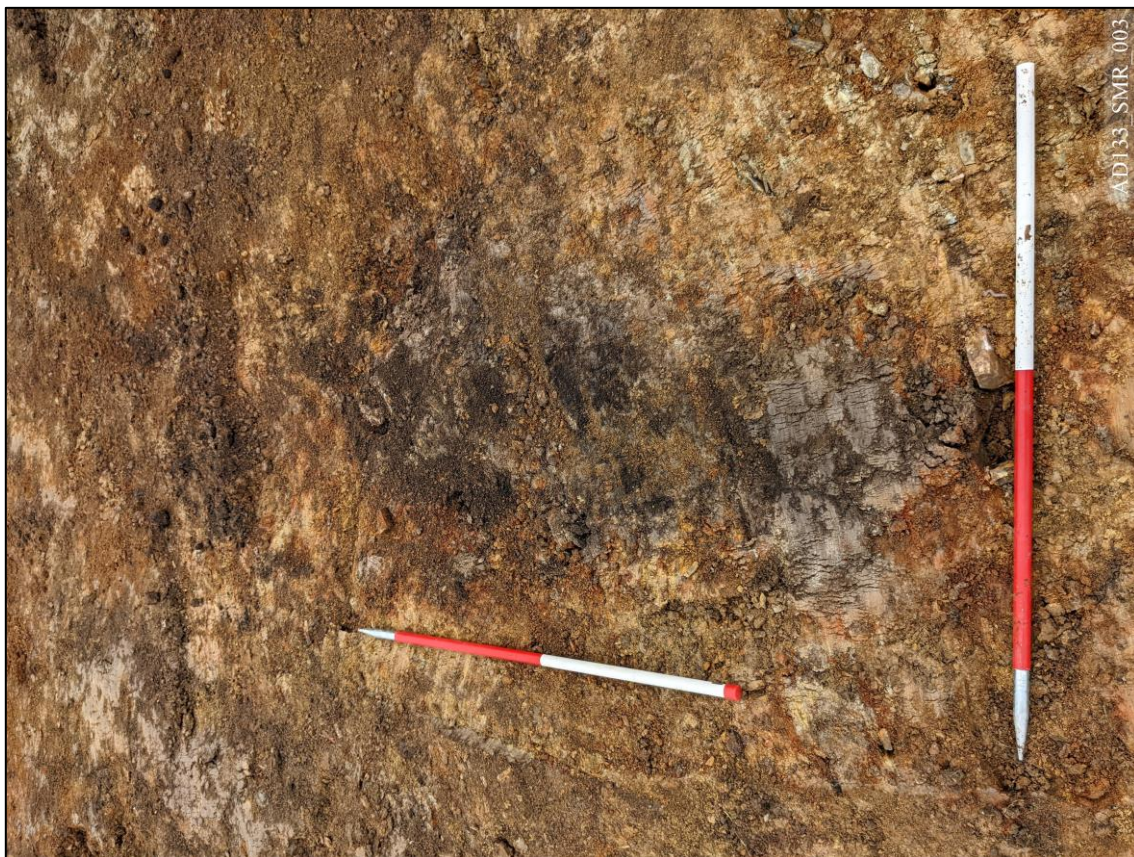


Plate 3 – View south-west, showing context 106.



Plate 4 – View north-east, showing context 106.





Plate 5 – View north-west, showing development site.



## APPENDIX IV

### Context Register

Trench 1				
Context	Type	Depth	Description	Period
101	Deposit	0.00-0.05m	Turf and humus. Over entire excavated area.	Natural
102	Deposit	0.05-0.22m	Topsoil. Small to medium subangular stone inclusions.	Natural
103	Deposit	0.22-NB	Subsoil. Yellow clay and sand. Medium to large angular and subangular stone inclusions. Largely undisturbed.	Natural
104	Deposit	0.22-NB	Subsoil. Brown to grey clay. Medium to large angular and subangular stone inclusions. Disturbed through plough action. Contains topsoil.	Natural
105	Feature	0.22-NB	Plough furrows.	Post-Medieval Modern
106	Deposit	0.22-0.22m	Burnt area. Black stained deposit. Sits on top of 103. Single use fire event.	?Pre-historic
107	Deposit	0.22-0.22m	Burnt area. Black stained deposit. Sits on top of 104. Scrub/hedge burning.	?Modern

ArchaeoDomus Archaeological & Heritage Services

Tel/Ffôn: 01570 429 539 / 07910 213 557  
Email/E-bost: [ross.cook@archaeodomus.co.uk](mailto:ross.cook@archaeodomus.co.uk)  
Web/Gwefan: [www.archaeodomus.co.uk](http://www.archaeodomus.co.uk)  
Social/Cymdeithasol: [www.twitter.com/archaeodomus](https://www.twitter.com/archaeodomus)  
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