Pont ar Daf Car Park, Brecon Beacons National Park Pl/AP/15/11835/FUL

Archaeological Field Evaluation

Prepared

for

Ymddiriedolaeth Genedlaethol Cymru

National Trust Wales

By

- BLACK MOUNTAINS ARCHAEOLOGY -
- ARCHAEOLEG MYNYDD DU -

Report Number 108 **21st August 2017**

Contents Page

Figures

Plates

Tables

Front cover: Undated photograph of the old Storey Arms Inn.

Summary

Black Mountains Archaeology Ltd/Archaeoleg Mynydd Du Cyf have been commissioned by National Trust Wales to carry out an archaeological field evaluation ahead of a proposed extension to the existing car park to inform on the nature and extent of any archaeological remains at Pont ar Daf Car Park in the Brecon Beacons National Park (15/11835). The proposed development consists of the construction of a new extended car park of around 263 spaces in an area of former forestry and Post-medieval settlement.

An archaeological desk-based assessment (Bowden et al 2015) identified a significant potential to encounter Prehistoric, Roman, Post-medieval and WWII defensive activity in the general vicinity. With particular emphasis on the presence of the Storey Arms WWII Anti-Invasion Stop Line (SAMBr337) and associated sites, the Beulah-Penydarren Roman Road (14900/14901/14902) and the old Storey Arms public house (115060), outbuildings and fieldscape.

The present report sets out the results of the archaeological field evaluation in accordance with the agreed Project Design produced to meet the Brief for the work provided by the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (BBNP).

The assessment has identified the presence of stratified archaeological deposits in two trenches (Trench 1 and 6).

Trench 1 produced two features, a field drain located on the eastern side of the Storey Arms field boundary (NT860993) and a possible ditch or large pit (106) found at the eastern end of the trench.

Arguably the most significant discovery was that of the metalled surface (603) found in Trench 6. It is possible that the poorly surviving metalled surface is the Beulah to Penydarren Roman road (RRX77 14900) suggested by Hogg and Houlder (1969) despite no dating evidence being recovered. The road feature is very fragmented south from Trench 6 but appears to survive well, breaking the ground surface along the modern post and wire fence boundary. However, much more investigative work will be required to ascertain the origins of the metalled surface (603), if indeed it is Roman at all.

The remains of the recently felled forestry provided a significant challenge both in terms of excavating the trenches and recording.

The field evaluation was undertaken to the professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and guidance for an archaeological field evaluation*. Published 2014.*

1 Introduction

1.1 Project Background and Proposals

1.1.1 Black Mountains Archaeology Ltd/Archaeoleg Mynydd Du Cyf have been commissioned by the National Trust Wales to carry out an archaeological field evaluation ahead of a proposed extension to the existing car park to inform on the nature and extent of any archaeological remains at Pont ar Daf Car Park in the Brecon Beacons National Park (15/11835). The proposed development consists of the construction of a new extended car park of around 263 spaces in an area of former forestry and Post-medieval settlement.

1.1.2 The present report sets out the results of the archaeological field evaluation in accordance with the agreed Project Design produced to meet the Brief for the work provided by the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (BBNP).

1.1.3 An archaeological desk-based assessment (Bowden *et al* 2015) identified a significant potential to encounter Prehistoric, Roman, Post-medieval and WWII defensive activity in the general vicinity. With particular emphasis on the presence of the Storey Arms WWII Anti-Invasion Stop Line (SAMBr337) and associated sites, the Beulah-Penydarren Roman Road (14900/14901/14902) and the old Storey Arms public house (115060), outbuildings and fieldscape.

1.2 Objectives

1.2.1 The definition of an archaeological Field Evaluation as set out by the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists* (CIfA) is a programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present the field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their significance in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.

1.2.2 The purpose of field evaluation is to gain information about the archaeological resource within a given area or site (including its presence or absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality), in order to make an assessment of its merit in the appropriate context, leading to one or more of the following:

- The formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource.
- The formulation of a strategy to mitigate a threat to the archaeological resource.
- The formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research.

1.2.3 (*Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and guidance for an archaeological field evaluation* Published 2014)

1.3 Legislative Framework

1.3.1 Planning legislation is set out in the *Town and Country Planning Act 1990*. *Planning Policy Wales (PPW 9th Edition)* sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government. Chapter 6 sets out the Welsh Government's policy towards the historic environment. It states *"The historic environment of Wales is made up of individual historic features, archaeological sites, historic buildings and historic parks, gardens, townscapes and landscapes, collectively known as historic assets. The most important of these historic assets have statutory protection through scheduling, listing or designation as a conservation area. Other assets are included in formal registers, which identify them as being of special historic interest. Many others make a positive contribution to local character and sense of place. Some, such as buried archaeological remains, have still to be identified. It is important to protect what is significant about these assets and sustain their distinctiveness. Historic assets should be the subject of recording and investigation when they are affected by proposals that alter or destroy them. Historic assets are a non-renewable resource."* (PPW 2016, 90).

1.3.2 Underpinning PPW are a series of legislative powers and TANs. The *Planning (Wales) Act 2015* sets out a series of legislative changes to deliver reform of the planning system in Wales, to ensure that it is fair, resilient and enables development. The 2015 Act also introduces a mandatory requirement to undertake pre-application consultation for certain types of development. The *Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) (Amendment) Order 2016* defines in *Schedule 4(l)* the parameters and definitions for the requirement of pre-application consultation by Welsh Ministers, particularly in response to the effect of statutory designated monuments, buildings, and parks and gardens.

1.3.3 Advice on archaeology and buildings in the planning process was contained in *Welsh Office Circular 60/96 Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology* and *Welsh Office Circular 1/98 Planning and the Historic Environment*, which updated *Welsh Office Circular 61/96 Planning and the Historic Environment: Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas* following the Shimizu (U.K.) Ltd. v. Westminster City Council Judgement (February 1997). Detailed advice on Environmental Impact Assessment is contained within *Welsh Office Circular 11/99 Environmental Impact Assessment*. Following adoption of the *TAN 24 Historic Environment* on 31st May 2017, *Welsh Office Circulars 60/96 Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology*; *61/96 Planning and the Historic Environment: Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas*; and *1/98 Planning and the Historic Environment* have been cancelled.

1.3.4 Any works affecting an ancient monument and its setting are protected through implementation of the *Ancient Monument and Archaeological Areas Act 1979*. In Wales the 1979 Act has been strengthened by *The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016.* The 2016 Act makes important improvements for the protection and management of the Welsh historic environment. It also stands at the centre of an integrated package of secondary legislation (Annexes 1-6), new and updated planning policy and advice, and best-practice guidance on a wide range of topics (*TAN 24 Historic Environment*). Taken together, these will support and promote the careful management of change in the historic environment in accordance with current conservation philosophy and practice.

1.3.5 The *Ancient Monument and Archaeological Areas Act 1979* and *The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016* sets out a presumption in favour of preservation *in-situ* concerning sites and monuments of national importance (scheduled/listed), and there exists in the current *Planning Policy Wales (Chapter 6)* a presumption in favour of preservation *in-situ* of all types of heritage assets.

1.4 Location, Topography and Geology

1.4.1 The proposed development is centred on NGR SN (2)98750,(2)19910, just off the eastern side of the A470 between Merthyr Tydfil and Brecon. The site is currently car parking and recently felled forestry sloping to the northeast from 435mOD to 490mOD. The geology of the proposed development area is superficial deposits of Quaternary alluvial fan deposits of sands and gravels and Devensian till deposits (Diamicton) overlying the Brownstones Formation bedrock, which is comprised of interbedded sandstone and argillaceous rock (British Geological Survey 2017).

1.4.2 The archaeological evaluation was carried out between the 17th and 28th July 2017. Ground conditions were challenging due to the presence of numerous tree stumps left from recent forestry felling activity. The tree stumps were encountered in every trench. The weather was predominantly heavy rain and strong winds with occasional days of hot sunshine.

1.5 Archaeological background

1.5.1 A full archaeological and historical background has already been produced (Bowden *et al* 2015) so the intention is not to repeat that here. However, a short summary of the main archaeological interests and recent investigations is pertinent and are set out below.

1.5.2 The archaeological desk-based assessment (Bowden *et al 2015*) identified a significant potential to encounter Prehistoric, Roman, Post-medieval and WWII defensive activity in the general vicinity. With particular emphasis on the presence of the Storey Arms WWII Anti-Invasion Stop Line (SAMBr337) and associated sites, the Beulah-Penydarren Roman Road (14900/14901/14902) and the old Storey Arms public house (115060), outbuildings and fieldscape. This desk-based assessment followed an earlier study (Brooks 2010) that identified elements of the fieldscape belonging to the former Storey Arms Inn and Second World War defensive structures. A later topographic (Stafford 2017) confirmed the presence of the foundations for the Storey Arms Inn, its surviving fieldscape (field boundaries) and WWII structures.

1.5.3 The development area sits within a preserved prehistoric landscape. Principle remains include funerary and ritual monuments and settlement evidence. Notable examples of Bronze Age funerary monuments include Blaen Glyn Round Cairn (BR235) 2.5km to the NW in Glyn Tarell. On the southern slopes of Fan Fawr at Pant y Waun, on a southeast facing false crest, lies Twyn Garreg Wen Round Cairn (BR276) and to the west on the north eastern slope of Fan Fawr lies Nant Mawr Round Cairn (BR285). Near to the present Storey Arms three flint flakes were recovered in 1996 (34672) and a flint scatter (34534) was identified from Y Gyrn that may be prehistoric (but not necessarily worked), which attest to the prehistoric presence in the immediate area (Skeates 1996).

1.5.4 Further worked flints have been recovered from the lower slopes of Corn Du (26532, 26483, 26481 and 17995) including a fine flint arrowhead from the summit, which represents evidence of human activity here from the Mesolithic through to the Bronze Age. Later prehistoric activity is evidenced by the presence of settlements and hillforts; notable among these are Craig Cerrig-Gleisiad Prehistoric Settlement (BR267), Ton Teg Hut Settlement (BR407) and Rhyd Uchaf Hillfort (BR241).

1.5.5 Roman remains in the development area are limited to a probable road (Beulah-Penydarren Roman Road RRX77 14900/14901/14902; Silvester and Owen 2003, p57-63) that takes its alignment from the Taff Fawr at Pont ar Daf over Y Gyrn and down towards Brecon Gaer Roman Fort (35079, BR001). Silvester and Owen (2003) note the complexity of interpretation for the alternate Roman road routes suggested from Cardiff to Castell Collen and that no real consensus has been reached on the exact nature of this communication route through the Brecon Beacons. The Beulah-Penydarren (14900/14901/14902) Roman road is sandwiched between two better known routes, for which evidence is available to confirm the routes Roman origins (ibid p57; Burnham and Davies 2010, p325-6). The Sarn Helen (RR622) Roman Road (BR074) runs from the fort at Colbren (GM146) to Brecon Gaer taking the western route around Fforest Fawr and Fan Frynych to the west. Further to the east two Roman Roads are known, the first hypothetical following the Taf Fechan (RR621), and the second along the Usk Valley (RR620) from Gelligaer fort to Brecon Gaer, which acts as the focus for all of these routes north from the Brecon Beacons. Brecon Gaer fort was excavated in 1926; the investigations suggest a Flavian earthen fort (cAD75) reconstructed with stone walls in the Antonine period (cAD140). The fort encloses about 7 acres with the larger western gate was the principal entrance. The excavations also revealed extensive evidence for the civilian settlement (vicus) along the Roman road running from the north gate of the fort. The fort was built within sight of the native Iron Age settlements at Coed Fenni-fach and Pen-y-crug, it guards the Roman road as it descends from Fforest Fawr to cross the Usk and heads north into Mid Wales (Bowden *et al* 2015).

1.5.6 The site of the former Storey Arms public house is located within the development area. Demolished in 1924 the former coaching inn was occupied in 1843 by Richard Price and owned by A.M.R. Storey (Tithe Map of the Hamlet of Glyn 1843). The inn had a pitched slate roof and lean-to additions at either ends of the building and a pitched slate roofed porch at the centre of the building. To the sides and rear of the inn were a handful of small enclosures flanked by two larger trapezoidal shaped fields. Several streams from the mountain (Y Gyrn) cut through the fieldscape to the rear of the inn (Bowden *et al* 2015).

1.5.7 In the 20th century Pont ar Daf was utilised as a Second World War anti-invasion defence stop line. Forming part of a wider strategy to prevent invasion towards the critical West Midlands industrial complexes. The defences at Pont ar Daf consist of anti-tank obstacles (110477, 110478, BR337) that would have driven the invading forces towards the steep valley of the Blaen Taf Fawr and if the defences were breached then the invading force would then met a series of pillboxes (115061, 115062, BR337) (Bowden *et al* 2015).

2 Methodology

2.1.1 The archaeological field evaluation consisted of the excavation of nine trenches, totalling 360 square metres, in accordance with the design Brief provided by BBNP (and trench location plan). The trenches were positioned to target areas of ground reduction as detailed on the Cut and Fill Plan 10039-102 (see Figure 8). The plant provided was in the form of a 20t tracked back acting excavator with a 1.8m wide grading bucket. The trenches and Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) Buffer Area were laid out using a Geomax Zenith 25 Pro GNSS/Glonass (GPS) Receiver and data logger. The SAM buffer area was demarked on the ground by pig irons and high visibility bunting. All excavated trenches and identified archaeological features were recorded using a Geomax Zenith 35 Pro GNSS/Glonass (GPS) Receiver and data logger. The survey was conducted to Ordnance Survey National Grid and Datum (EPSG 27700) with a 20mm tolerance.

2.1.2 The excavation of the trenches proved challenging due to the presence of a dense mat of root and tree stumps from the recently felled forestry. Access to each trench had to be made first by machine before the trench could be excavated. This involved the careful removal of tree stumps by machine under archaeological supervision. Despite taking this precautionary methodology the tracked excavator lost its tracks on more than one occasion meaning the loss of a total of ten hours machine time over several days.

2.1.3 The dense root and tree stump cover was found to have significantly disturbed the top- and sub-soils and together with the inclement weather and the nature of the underlying strata (superficial deposits of sands and gravels overlying interbedded sandstone and argillaceous rock) it proved very difficult to identify archaeological features in plan whilst machine excavating the trenches. The result being that two features in Trench 1 (106 – post-medieval boundary ditch and 112 – post-medieval field drain) and a single feature in Trench 6 (603 – probable Roman road) were observed in section only. However, the full extent of feature 603 was later revealed by hand excavation and recording (608).

2.1.4 Where archaeological deposits and features were identified in the trenches, these were fully cleaned by hand (sections) and recorded. The archaeological recording techniques conformed to the best industry standard; all significant archaeological deposits were recorded using a single continuous context numbering system pro forma. All contexts were recorded with the trench number prefix (e.g. context 03 in Trench 6 = 603) and are summarised in Appendix III. Contexts were drawn in plan and in section at 1:20 scale. All trenches and significant contexts were photographed in digital using a Fujifilm FinePix S4800 super wide (30x) 24-720mm camera at 16mp. In addition, all trenches and archaeological discoveries were surveyed by GPS. In all trenches, natural deposits were encountered and recorded. Where no archaeological horizons were encountered in the trenches then the excavations were taken down to the natural sand/gravels and mudstones. Each section of the trench was inspected and sample sections were hand cleaned and recorded, and the trench surveyed, before being back-filled. All trenches were backfilled with the excavated material on completion of recording that day with the exception of Trench 6, which was left open overnight for LPA monitoring and fenced off with Heras security fencing.

2.1.5 All classes of finds were retained (cleaned and catalogued) and arrangements for final deposition have been agreed, as set out in the requirements of the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (2014). Ownership will be transferred to Brecknock Museum and art Gallery for permanent curation. No deposits with palaeoenvironmental potential were encountered.

2.1.6 The probable Roman road (603/608) identified in Trench 6 was the subject of contingency investigations (as set out in the Brief), which took an additional two days, to find the full extent of surviving remains.

2.1.7 The field evaluation was carried out to the standards of the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (2014).

2.1.8 With the permission of the landowner, the site archive will be deposited with Brecknock Museum and art Gallery for permanent curation. An accession number will be generated on submission. A digital copy of the report and archive summary will be supplied to the regional HER, the LPA (BBNP) and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales.

3 Results

3.1 Stratigraphical evidence

3.1.1 The archaeological field evaluation consisted of the excavation of nine trenches, totalling 360 square metres, in accordance with the design Brief provided by BBNP (and trench location plan). In two cases the trenches were realigned, one to avoid obstacles (Trench 3) and the second (Trench 5) moved eastward over the presumed course of the probable Roman road (603) identified in Trench 6. All trenches encountered frequent tree stumps and root mat associated with recently felled forestry.

3.1.2 The results of each evaluation trench are detailed below and contextual information can be found in Appendix III.

3.1.3 **Trench 1** (Figures 1, 3-5; Plates 1 and 2)

3.1.4 Level of present ground surface: W end 437.963mOD, E end 438.045mOD.

3.1.5 Trench 1 was the most northerly trench, located over the field boundary to the rear (east) of the former Storey Arms Inn. The trench was 17.70m in length and 2m in width. The length was constrained due to presence of a watercourse, which was left undisturbed. The average depth of the trench was 1m. Trench 1 contained two archaeological features, a Post-medieval boundary ditch (106) and field drain (112). Trench 1 also contained the highest abundance of finds (35 individual pieces).

3.1.6 The basal layer (105/114) was an orange-brown sandy weathered (mudstone) bedrock. A field drain (112) was identified 8.2m from the northern end of the trench. Unusually, for the construction of a field drain it was found contained within a wide foundation cut (113) as opposed to a narrow slot. The foundation cut (113) was excavated through a reddish-brown sandy loam natural subsoil (103/111) that was found to uniformly run the entire width of the trench. The field drain (112) had a narrow rectangular profile 0.4m wide x 0.64m in depth and was composed of frequent angular stones (mudstone) of varying sizes, but no greater than <0.22m in overall length, all apparently haphazardly positioned. The cut (113) for the field drain (112) contained back-filled material (110/115) abutting 112 and composed of grey-brown alluvial sandy clay. The intersection between the back-filled material (110/115) and the overlying subsoil (109) was heavily disturbed by tree roots. The heavily disturbed subsoil (109) was a mid-brown sandy loam with frequent small pebbles (<0.08m). A thin vegetation rich dark-brown friable sandy loam topsoil (108/101) overlay subsoil 109, its main characteristic being heavily disturbed by the former forestry plantation, both in terms of below ground root disturbance and above ground furrowing. The field drain (112) was aligned on the outside south eastern edge of the Storey Arms Inn field boundary NT860993.

3.1.7 At the eastern end of the trench a ditch (106) 2.6m wide x 0.8m in depth was identified in the southwest facing section. The basal deposit (105/114) was an orange-brown sandy weathered (mudstone) bedrock. This deposit was cut by the ditch (106) along with subsoils 107 and 103. Overlying the weathered bedrock was a reddish-brown sandy loam subsoil (103/111) that was found to uniformly run the entire width of the trench. Overlying this deposit was a mid-brown sandy-silt loam (107) heavily disturbed by tree roots. The topsoil (101/108) was a dark brown friable sandy loam, again heavily disturbed by tree roots, and contained four sherds of transfer printed white earthenware. The fill (102) of ditch cut 106 was mid-brown sandy loam, heavily disturbed by tree roots and was found to contain an abundance of charcoal, post-medieval ceramics, glass and one fragment of iron. The ditch cut (106) and associated contexts were confirmed in the opposing trench section.

3.1.8 **Trench 2** (Figures 1 and 2; Plate 3)

3.1.9 Level of present ground surface: NW end 439.016mOD, SE end 439.880mOD.

3.1.10 Trench 2 was positioned close to the SAM buffer area. The trench measured 20m in length and 2m in width with an average depth 0.6m. This trench contained no evidence of any archaeological deposits or features. Two schematic sections were recorded at either end of the northeast facing section.

3.1.11 The basal deposit was a reddish brown fractured and weathered mudstone bedrock (204). Overlying this was a friable buff coloured sandy silt (203). The subsoil was a friable grey-brown sandy silt (202). The topsoil (201) was a friable dark-brown sandy silt loam with significant tree root disturbance. The topsoil (201) was found to contain charcoal, clinker and a single sherd of a local red ceramic courseware.

3.1.12 **Trench 3** (Figure 1; Plate 4)

3.1.13 Level of present ground surface: NE end 439.070mOD, SW end 438.100mOD.

3.1.14 Trench 3 was positioned adjacent to Trench 2. The trench measured 20m in length and 2m in width with an average depth 0.45m. The trench was partially realigned eastward to avoid an abundance of large tree stumps. This trench contained no evidence of any archaeological deposits or features. Two schematic sections were recorded at either end of the east facing section.

3.1.15 Similarly to Trench 2 the basal deposit was a reddish brown fractured and weathered mudstone bedrock (304). Overlying this was a friable buff coloured sandy silt loam (303). The subsoil was a friable grey-brown sandy silt loam (302). The topsoil (301) was a friable dark-brown sandy silt loam with significant tree root disturbance. The topsoil (301) was found to contain a single white earthenware transfer printed willow pattern (plate) rim sherd.

3.1.16 **Trench 4** (Figure 1; Plate 5)

3.1.17 Level of present ground surface: E end 437.200mOD, W end 436.400mOD.

3.1.18 Trench 4 was positioned to the far west of the development area close to the site of the former Storey Arms and modern car park boundary wall. The trench measured 20m in length and 2m in width with an average depth of 0.85m. This trench contained no evidence of any archaeological deposits or features. Two schematic sections were recorded at either end of the east facing section.

3.1.19 The basal deposit (404) was a friable reddish orange silty sandy loam, the weathered bedrock interface. Overlying this deposit was a pale yellowish grey friable silty sandy loam subsoil (403) with an abundance of stones, possible remnants of demolition debris from the former Storey Arms. The overlying subsoil (402) was a dark-brown friable silty sandy loam. The topsoil (401) was a friable dark brown sandy loam with heavy bioturbation (tree roots).

3.1.20 **Trench 5** (Figures 1 and 2; Plate 6)

3.1.21 Level of present ground surface: E end 442.270mOD, W end 441.220mOD.

3.1.22 Trench 5 was repositioned at the request of BBNP to test survival of the probable Roman road (603) identified in T6. The trench was L-shaped, 20m in length and 2m wide with an average depth of 1.05m. With the exception of plough soil noted in the subsoil (502), no other evidence of any archaeological deposits or features were present. Two schematic sections were recorded at either end of the north and south facing sections.

3.1.23 The basal deposit (506) was a pale grey weathered mudstone bedrock in a sandy silt matrix. Overlying this deposit was an orange-brown sandy silt loam natural subsoil (505) with pale pink and grey mottling. No inclusions. This deposit (505) was equivalent to subsoil 605 in the adjacent Trench 6. The overlying subsoil (502) was a brown silt loam containing isolated worn cobbles, possibly ploughed out remains of probable Roman road 603. The subsoil (502) was disturbed by tree roots and at least one large tree bole. The overlying topsoil (500) in the south facing section only was a dark-grey lay loam, heavily disturbed by tree roots and stumps.

3.1.24 **Trench 6** (Figures 1, 2, 6 and 7; Plates 7 – 9)

3.1.25 Level of present ground surface: E end 442.630mOD, W end 443.081mOD.

3.1.26 Trench 6 was positioned along the NE boundary of the development area. The trench was 20m in length and 2m wide with an average depth of 1.25m. A metalled surface (603) and probable Roman road (Beulah-Penydarren 14900) was identified in the NE facing section and confirmed surviving on the current ground surface of the NE section edge. Following this discovery, the area between Trench 5 and Trench 6 on the conjectured line of the road was hand excavated and recorded revealing a poorly surviving metalled surface 4.5m wide and around 1.6m long with an average thickness of 0.3m. The metalled surface north of Trench 6 and beyond the modern post and wire field boundary would appear to survive reasonably intact for a short length before encountering the modern forestry.

3.1.27 The basal deposit was a yellow-brown sandy silt-loam (606) free from larger inclusions. Overlying this was a pale orange-brown sandy silt-loam subsoil (605), free from inclusions. The deposit varies in thickness between 0.65m and 1.13m along the length of the trench. Forming the base of the metalled surface (603), either intentionally or otherwise, was a yellow-brown weathered bedrock deposit (604) consisting of thin deposit of hard gravels in a sand matrix, possibly naturally redeposited (glacial). Directly overlying this hard deposit was a possible cut (602) that contained metalled surface 603, which comprising sub-angular river-worn cobbles in a pinky-brown sandy clay matrix. The metalled surface averaged 0.3m in thickness.

3.1.28 The upper 'road' surface was fairly level with a shallow U-shaped profile (602). A pinky-brown weathered bedrock and sand matrix (607) was used to bind the metalled surface (603) in one area for around 1.4m of its width. The centre of the metalled feature was very close to the ground surface. Overlying the metalled surface was dark brown sandy clay loam topsoil (601) with high bioturbation and moderate quantities of sandstone pebbles (<1mm-10mm). The deposit was very disturbed by forestry planting. Finds from this deposit include clinker, coke, glass and willow pattern transfer printed white earthenware sherds (tea cup and plate forms). The trench and contingency excavation area was subjected to metal detecting by hand in the hope of recovering dating evidence. No Roman hobnails or other metallic finds were recorded.

3.1.29 **Trench 7** (Figure 1; Plates 10)

3.1.30 Level of present ground surface: NE end 438.950mOD, SW end 437.830mOD.

3.1.31 The trench was positioned close to the SAM buffer area to principally identify any WWII remains that may have survived behind the Storey Arms defences. The trench measured 20m in length and 2m wide with an average depth 0.45m. This trench contained no evidence of any archaeological deposits or features. The SW end of the trench was partially covered by a modern metalled (gravel) trackway. Two schematic sections were recorded at either end of the east facing section.

3.1.32 The basal deposit (703) was a red-brown silty sand (weathered mudstone bedrock). Overlying this was a brown sandy loam subsoil (702) with heavy root disturbance. The upper surface (701) was a red brown gravel forming a temporary forestry trackway.

3.1.33 **Trench 8a** (Figures 1 and 2; Plate 11)

3.1.34 Level of present ground surface: W end 439.229mOD, E end 439.771mOD.

3.1.35 The trench was positioned parallel to the modern forestry's northern post and wire fence. The trench was 10m in length and 2m width with an average depth 0.75m. This trench contained no evidence of any archaeological deposits or features

3.1.36 The basal deposit (803a) was a friable grey silt loam overlain by a friable pinky-brown silt clay loam subsoil (802a). The overlying topsoil (801a) was a dark-brown friable sandy loam with heavy root disturbance.

3.1.37 **Trench 8b** (Figure 1)

3.1.38 Level of present ground surface: N end 436.831mOD, S end 436.386mOD.

3.1.39 The trench was positioned close to the National Trust's information cabin on the south side of the main mountain/hiking trackway. The trench was 10m in length and 2m width with an average depth 0.45m. This trench contained no evidence of any archaeological deposits or features.

3.1.40 The basal deposit (803b) was a friable orange brown silt weather mudstone, which was overlain by a friable mid-brown sandy silt subsoil (802b). The overlying topsoil (801b) was a dark-brown friable sandy loam with heavy root disturbance.

3.1.41 **Trench 9** (Figure 1; Plate 12)

3.1.42 Level of present ground surface: N end 436.094mOD, S end 435.541mOD.

3.1.43 The trench was position a few metres to the south of Trench 8b and the National Trust's information cabin on the south side of the main mountain/hiking trackway. The trench was 20m in length and 2m width with an average depth 0.45m. This trench contained no evidence of any archaeological deposits or features.

3.1.44 The basal deposit (903) was a friable reddish-brown sandy silt, weathered mudstone bedrock. This was overlain by a friable mid-brown sandy silt subsoil (902). The overlying topsoil (901) was a dark-brown friable sandy loam with heavy root disturbance.

3.2 Finds

3.2.1 The finds recovered during the course of the evaluation were confined to four trenches and five contexts. The material was processed and catalogued according to fabric type. The assemblage as a whole is dateable to the post-medieval period, specifically the 18th and 19th centuries with some overlap into the 20th century.

3.2.2 Transfer-printed white earthenwares and other ceramics of 18th and 19th century or later date were collected from Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 6. By far the largest assemblage came from Trench 1, context 102, the fill of a ditch associated with the Storey Arms Inn (demolished 1924). The material ranges from ceramic pipes, cups, bowls, plates and tea pots to salt glaze beer bottles and spirit glasses. Of particular interest was a ceramic egg half, which may have been used to encourage poultry to go broody and a fragment of what appears to be an early lemonade bottle. But otherwise the assemblage represents those items commonly found in association with buildings of the type and date of the Storey Arms Inn.

Table 1. Finds catalogue

Context	Material Type	Fabric type	Quantity	Period	Description
101	Pottery	WETP	2	19th century	Two sherds of a decorated bowl
101	Pottery	WETP	1	19th century	Single shoulder sherd of a plate
101	Pottery	WETP	1	19th century	Willow pattern plate rim-sherd
102	Clay pipe	WE	5	19th century	Two bowl and three stem fragments. Bowl has leaf pattern along seam
102	Pottery	SGE	2	19th century	Salt glaze beer bottle body sherd with partial label "…ottling Co…" …bottling company… and partial neck/spout (bottle top) sherd.
102	Ceramic	WE	1	19th century	Half of a ceramic egg, possibly a broody egg
102	Pottery	WETP	1	19th century	Willow pattern tea cup body-sherd
102	Pottery	WETP	1	19th century	Willow pattern plate rim-sherd
102	Pottery	WETP	2	19th/20th century	Ceramic bowl with leaf decoration
102	Pottery	WETP	2	19th/20th century	Bowl base and body-sherd fragment, undecorated
102	Pottery	WETP	1	18th/19th century	Pie crust bowl rim-sherd
102	Pottery	RE	1	19th century	Red earthenware body-sherd, cooking pot? Glazed on inside only.
102	Pottery	WE	2	19th century	Rim and body sherd from a glazed tea pot

Context	Material Type	Fabric type	Quantity	Period	Description
102	Pottery	WETP	1	18th century(?)	WETP, hand painted on both inside and outside surfaces of sherd
102	Glass	Glass	3	19th/20th century	Glass tumbler base and body sherds
102	Glass	Glass	1	19th/20th century	Brandy glass base, neck and partial bowl
102	Glass	Glass	3	19th/20th century	Three body-sherds from a medicine or spirit bottle. Rectangular in profile
102	Glass	Glass	1	19th/20th century	Bottle neck
102	Glass	Glass	1	19th/20th century	Body-sherd, bowl shaped with flanged shoulder
102	Glass	Glass	1	19th century	Thick body-sherd with partial stamp, inverted flur de lys, and lettering "…MARK…". Lemonade bottle.
102	Roof tile	Slate	1	18th/19th century	Slate roof tile fragment.
102	Iron handle	Fe	1	19th century	Iron pale (bucket) or cooking pot handle
201	Pottery	LCW	1	19th century	Thick rim-sherd, red local course ware (cooking pot?)
301	Pottery	WETP	1	19th century	Willow pattern plate rim-sherd
601	Pottery	WETP	11	18th/19th century	Willow pattern sherds. Tea cup and plate forms.
601	Glass	Glass	1	U/D	Glass sherd, undiagnostic

Key
Quantity in total number of sherds
U/D: Undiagnostic
RW: Red earthenware
LCW: Local Coarseware
NDGT: North Devon Gravel-tempered Ware
SGE: Salt-glazed Earthenware
WETP: White Earthenware Transfer Printed
WE: White Earthenware

4 Discussion and Conclusions

4.1.1 The assessment has identified the presence of stratified archaeological deposits in two trenches (Trench 1 and 6). The remains of the recently felled forestry provided a significant challenge both in terms of excavating the trenches and recording.

4.1.2 The identification of a field drain on the eastern side of the Storey Arms field boundary (NT860993) in Trench 1 is not surprising and it is entirely possible the unusual open cut (113) that contained the drain (112) started out as an open field ditch. The ditch (106) found at the eastern end of the trench is somewhat more puzzling as no field boundaries are known or have been surveyed there. The only noted linear is the water course which still runs today. An alternate suggestion could be that the ditch is in fact a large, much larger than the width of the trench, rubbish pit dug by the occupants of the Storey Arms Inn to dispose of their household and public house waste. That would help to explain the quantities of post-medieval finds recovered from the fill (102) and the fact the cut was noted in both north and south facing sections.

4.1.3 The presence of post-medieval ceramics, clinker and coke in Trench 6 (601) and the plough soil noted in the adjacent Trench 5 (502) may indicate that this area was once put to the plough, probably a steam plough in the late 19th/early 20th centuries. Alternatively, it has been suggested that the original forestry (after the Storey Arms Inn was demolished) plantation was planted using a diesel bulldozer's rear plough, the process of which may have mimicked ploughing leaving the cleaner and deeper plough soil noted in Trench 5. However, the presence of clinker, coke and 19th century ceramics remain to be explained in that scenario.

4.1.4 Arguably the most significant discovery was that of the metalled surface (603) found in Trench 6. It is possible that the poorly surviving metalled surface is the Beulah to Penydarren Roman road (RRX77 14900) despite no dating evidence being recovered. The road feature is very fragmented south from Trench 6 but appears to survive well, breaking the ground surface along the modern post and wire fence boundary. The road did not have any flanking ditches but with it being aligned up towards the mountain at Y Gyrn it would not necessarily require drainage. If the feature is indeed Roman then it may have been a minor road leading to a signal station located up on the top of Y Gyrn. Low intensity 2m LiDAR has not been helpful in trying to trace the potential route over the mountain and this is further compounded by the fact the suggested route (CPAT HER) was a well-used quarry track in the 18th and 19th centuries.

4.1.5 A comparable 'inferior' Roman road based on form and construction methodology can be found at Caerleon. A Roman road adjacent to a rectangular Roman tower/mausoleum (discovered at the same time) was recently discovered ahead of a coach car park development at the Celtic Manor, Newport. Here the road was around 5m in width and constructed of around 300mm of compacted gravels and pebbles with no flanking ditches. The route was a minor road carrying traffic north and up into the Monmouthshire hills from the legionary fortress at Caerleon and its known civilian settlement along the valley at Bulmore (Tuck 2009).

4.1.6 In the absence of any datable evidence recovered from metalled surface 603, the similarity in road construction between the two sites may offer some remote evidence to suggest that it may indeed be the Roman road (RRX77) suggested by Hogg and Houlder (1969, p17). However, much more investigative work will be required to ascertain the origins of the metalled surface (603), if indeed it is Roman at all.

5 Bibliography

Bowden, H, James-Martin, C and Lewis, S, 2015, *Pont-ar-daf Car Park, Brecon, Powys: archaeological desk-based assessment.* GGAT Report No.2015/063.

Burnham, B and Davies, J, 2010, *Roman Frontiers in Wales and the Marches.* RCAHMW.

British Geological Survey, 2017, *Geology of Britain Viewer*, accessed 26/06/2017 (http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html)

Hogg, AH and Houlder, CH, 1969, Pen Milan in *Archaeology in Wales* **9**.

Thorne, A, 2017, *Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation at the Pont Ar Daf Car Park, off the A470, Brecon Beacons National Park 15/11835 / 02-05-17*.

Stafford, 2017, *Pont ar Daf, Storey Arms, Brecon, Powys: topographical survey*. Archaeology Wales Report No.1562.

Skeates, R , 1996 , *The Brecon Beacons Archaeological Survey 1996*

Silvester, B and Owen, W, 2003, *Roman Roads in Mid and North-East Wales.* CPAT Report No 527.

Tuck, M, 2009 , *Celtic Manor Coach Park, Bulmore, Newport: Archaeological Field Evaluation*

Other Sources

BGS http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html accessed 26/06/2017

Lle Welsh Government GIS Map Browser for LiDAR http://lle.gov.wales/ accessed 07/08/17-17/08/17

6 Appendices

6.1 Appendix I Figures

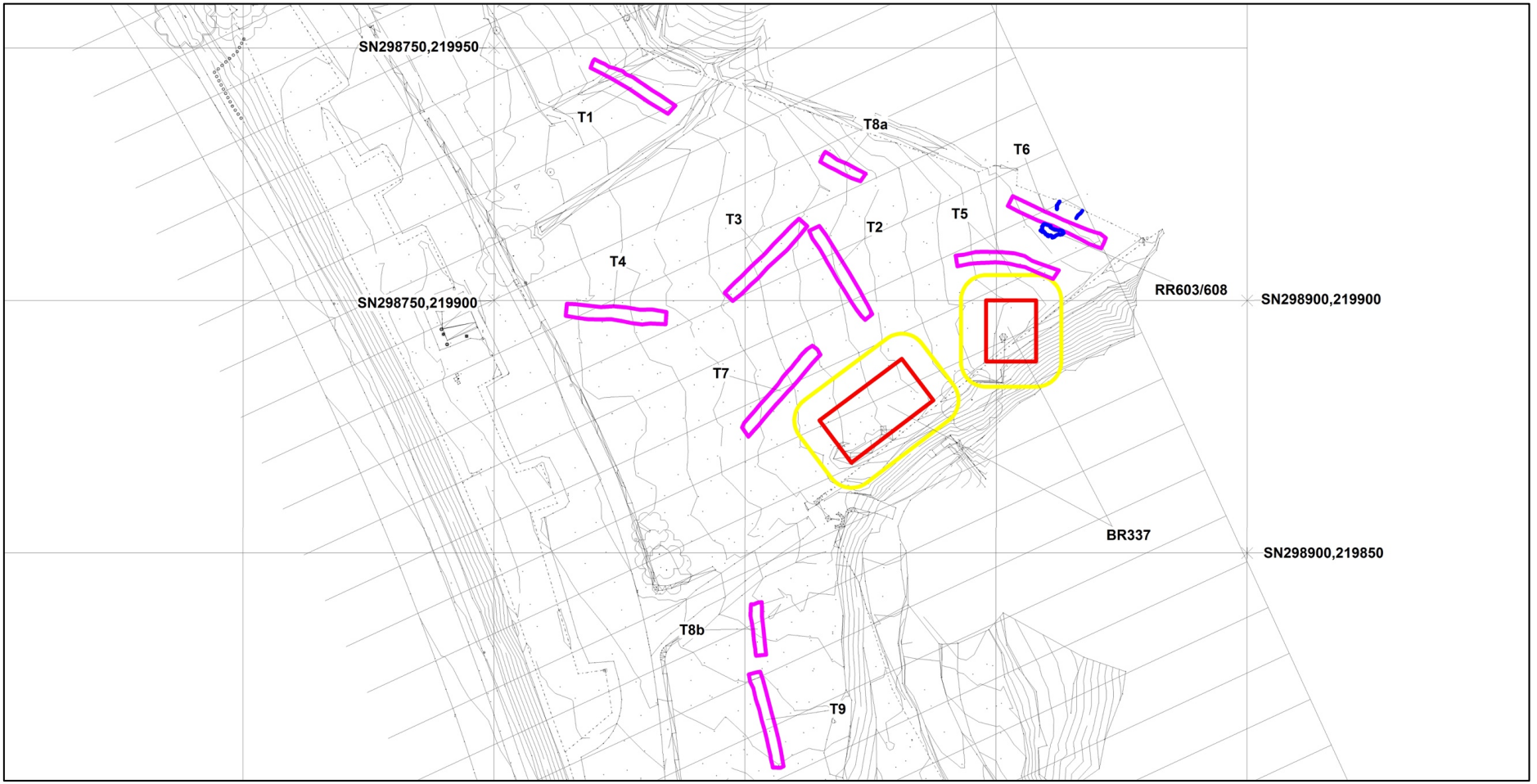

Figure 1. Location of archaeological evaluation trenches (T1-T9) and archaeological discoveries (blue line-RR603/608) overlaid onto topographic survey. Scale = 50m^2 grids. Scheduled Ancient Monuments (red polygons), Scheduled Ancient Monument Buffer Areas (yellow polygons).

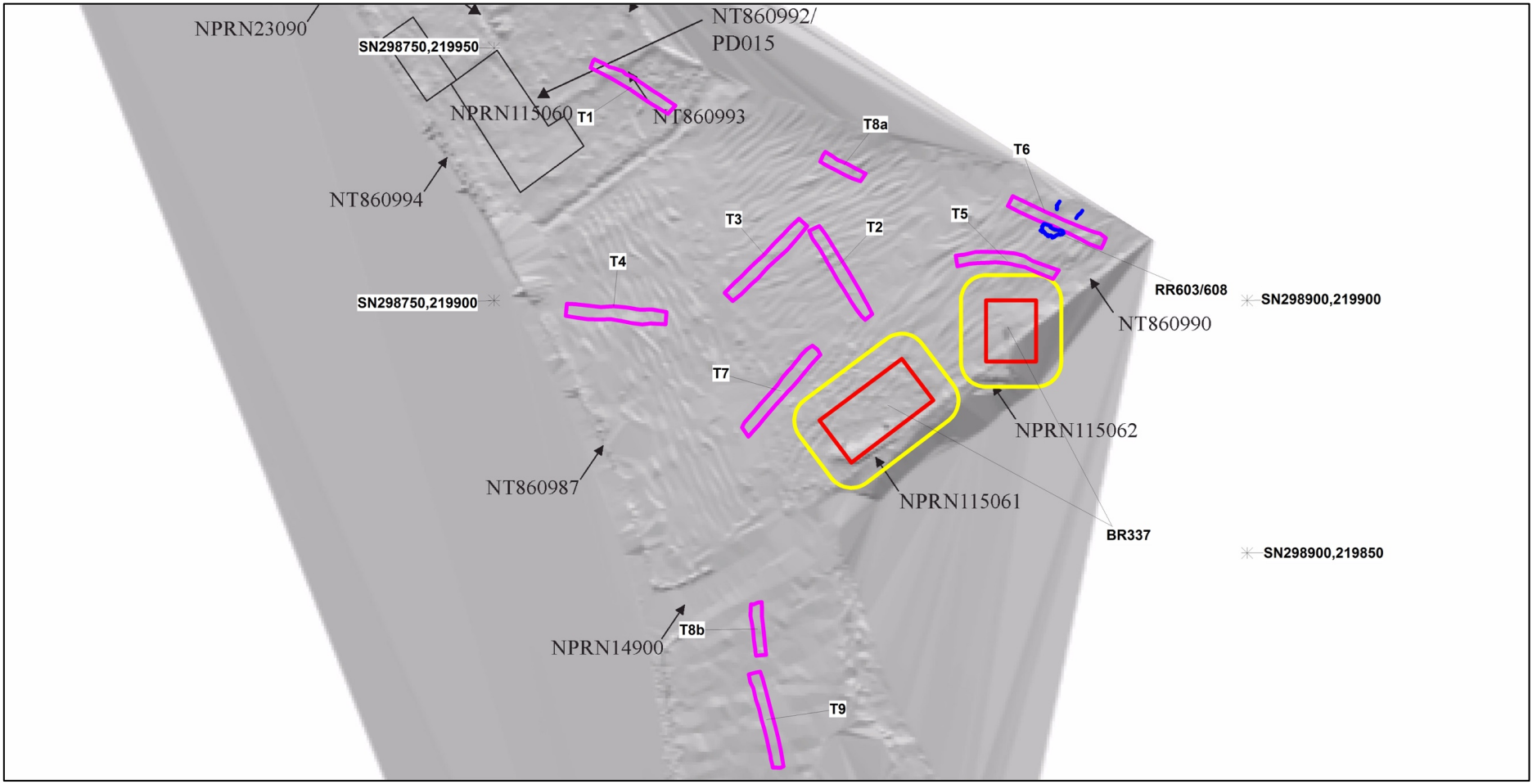

Figure 1b. Location of archaeological evaluation trenches (T1-T9) and archaeological discoveries (blue line-RR603/608) overlaid onto contour survey. Scale = 50m^2 grids. Scheduled Ancient Monuments (red polygons), Scheduled Ancient Monument Buffer Areas (yellow polygons).

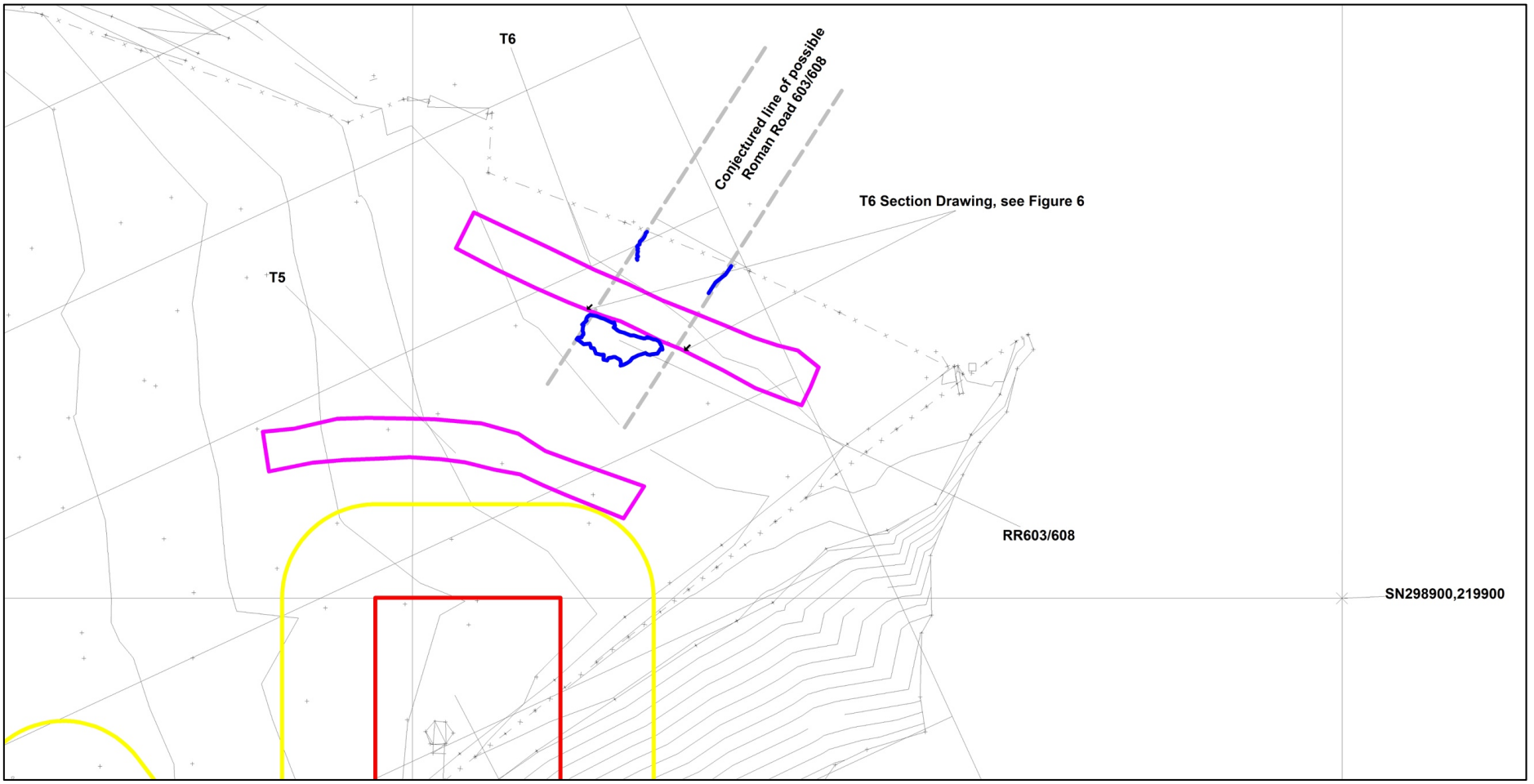

Figure 2. Location of archaeological evaluation trenches (T5-T6) and archaeological discoveries (blue line-RR603/608) overlaid onto topographic survey. Scale = 50m^2 grids. Scheduled Ancient Monuments (red polygons), Scheduled Ancient Monument Buffer Areas (yellow polygons).

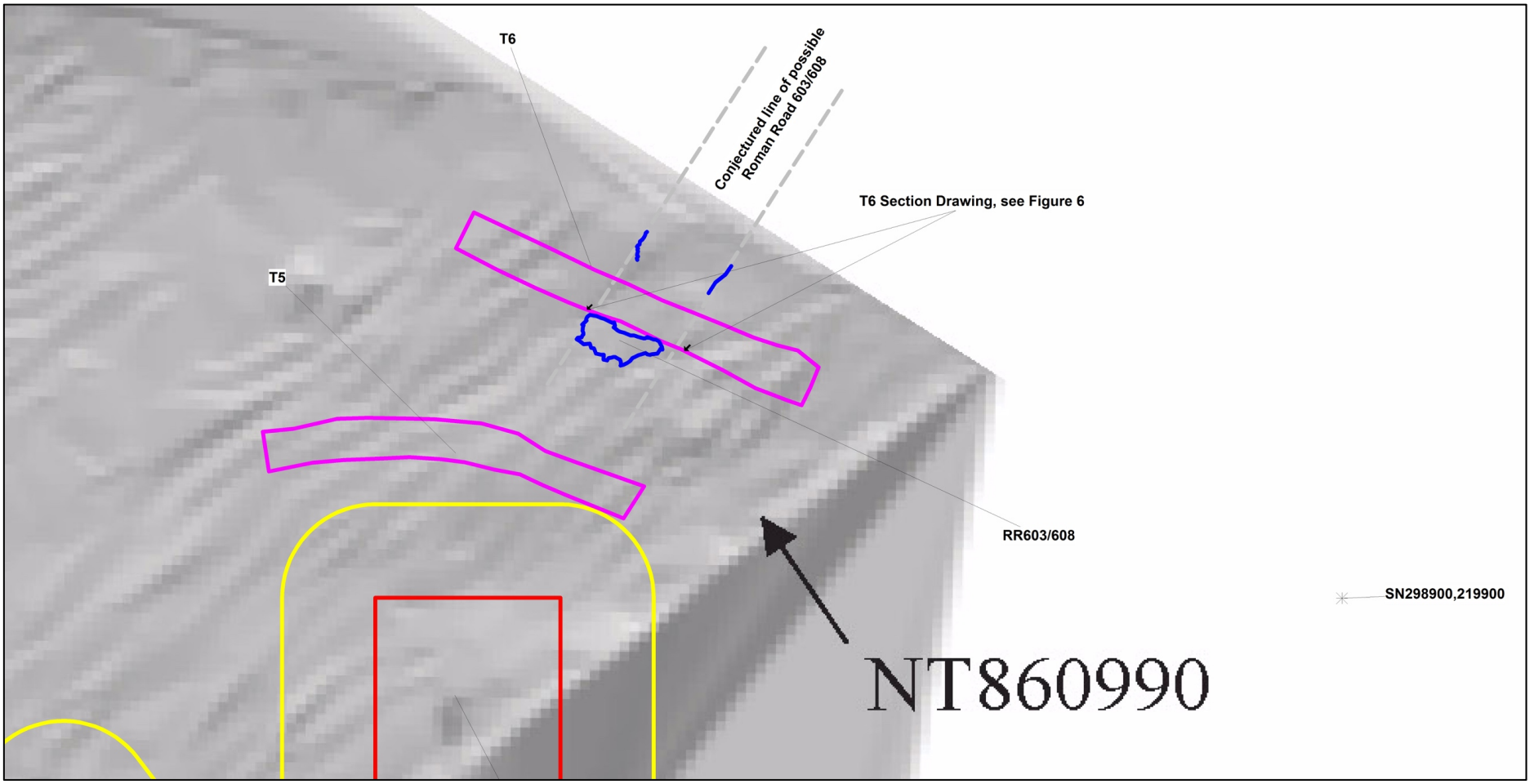

Figure 2b. Location of archaeological evaluation trenches (T5-T6) and archaeological discoveries (blue line-RR603/608) overlaid onto contour survey. Scale = 50m^2 grids. Scheduled Ancient Monuments (red polygons), Scheduled Ancient Monument Buffer Areas (yellow polygons).

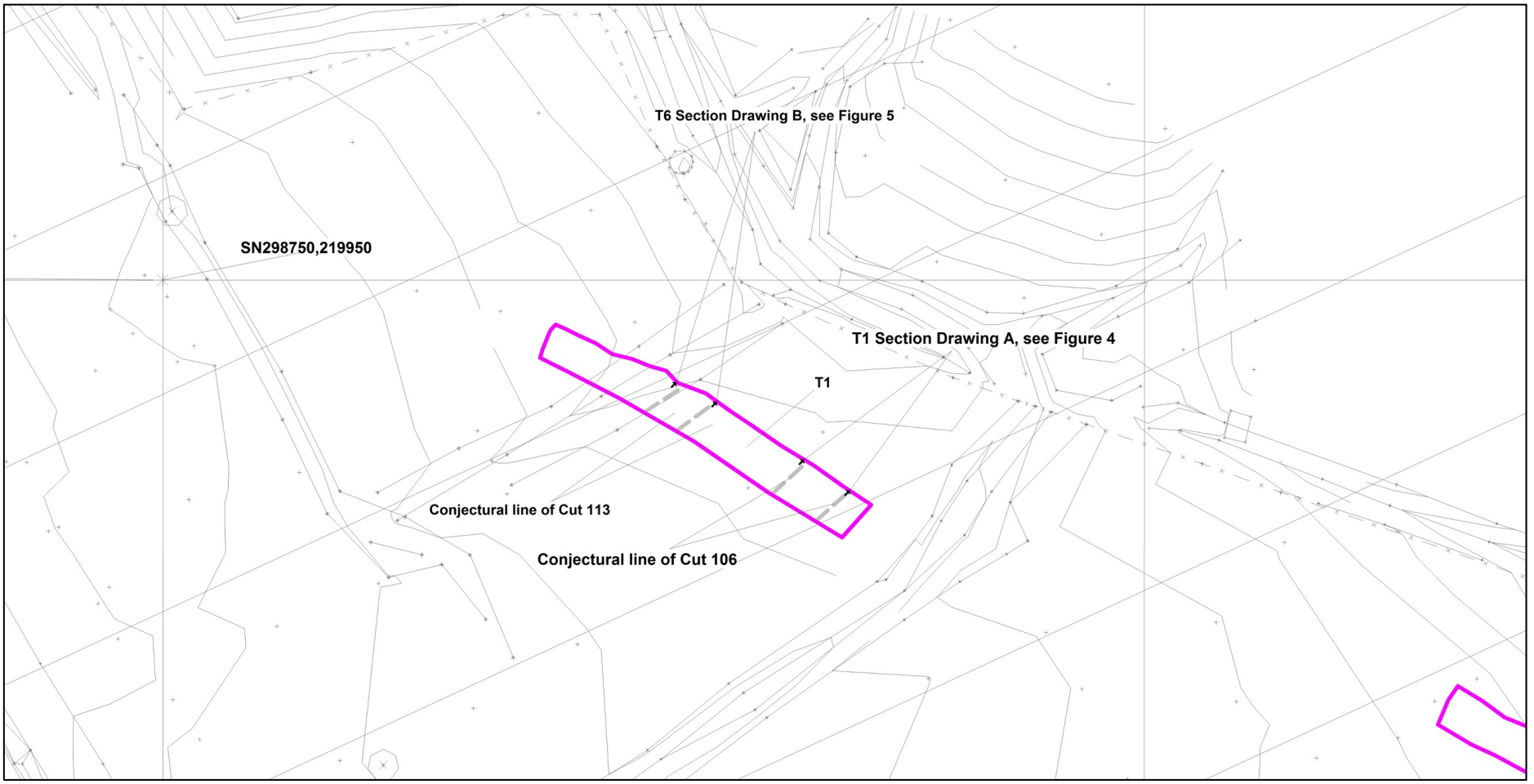

Figure 3. Location of archaeological evaluation trench T1 and archaeological discoveries (106/112) overlaid onto topographic survey. Scale = 50m^2 grids Scheduled Ancient Monuments (red polygons), Scheduled Ancient Monument Buffer Areas (yellow polygons).

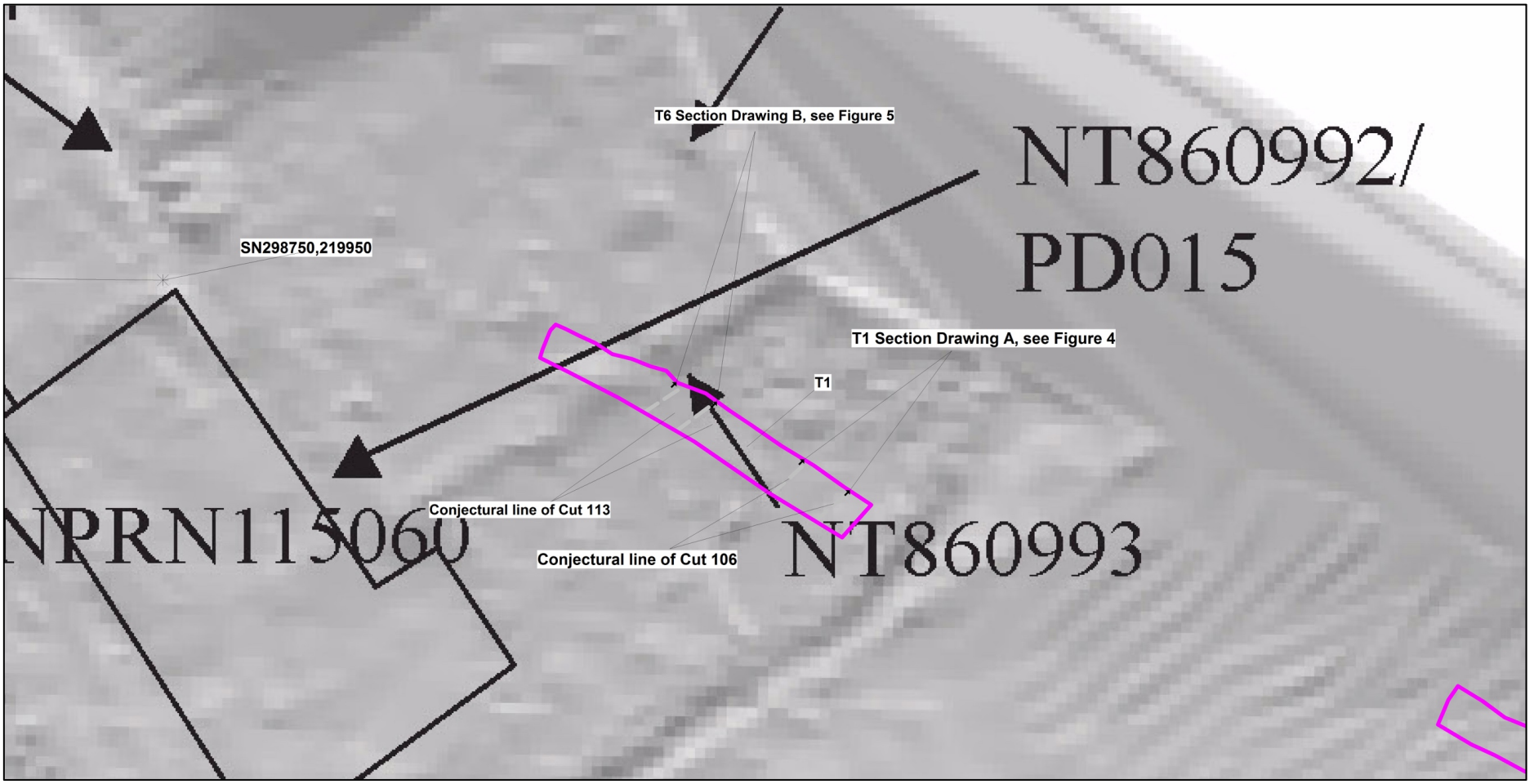

Figure 3b. Location of archaeological evaluation trench T1 and archaeological discoveries (106/112) overlaid onto contour survey. Scale = 50m^2 grids Scheduled Ancient Monuments (red polygons), Scheduled Ancient Monument Buffer Areas (yellow polygons).

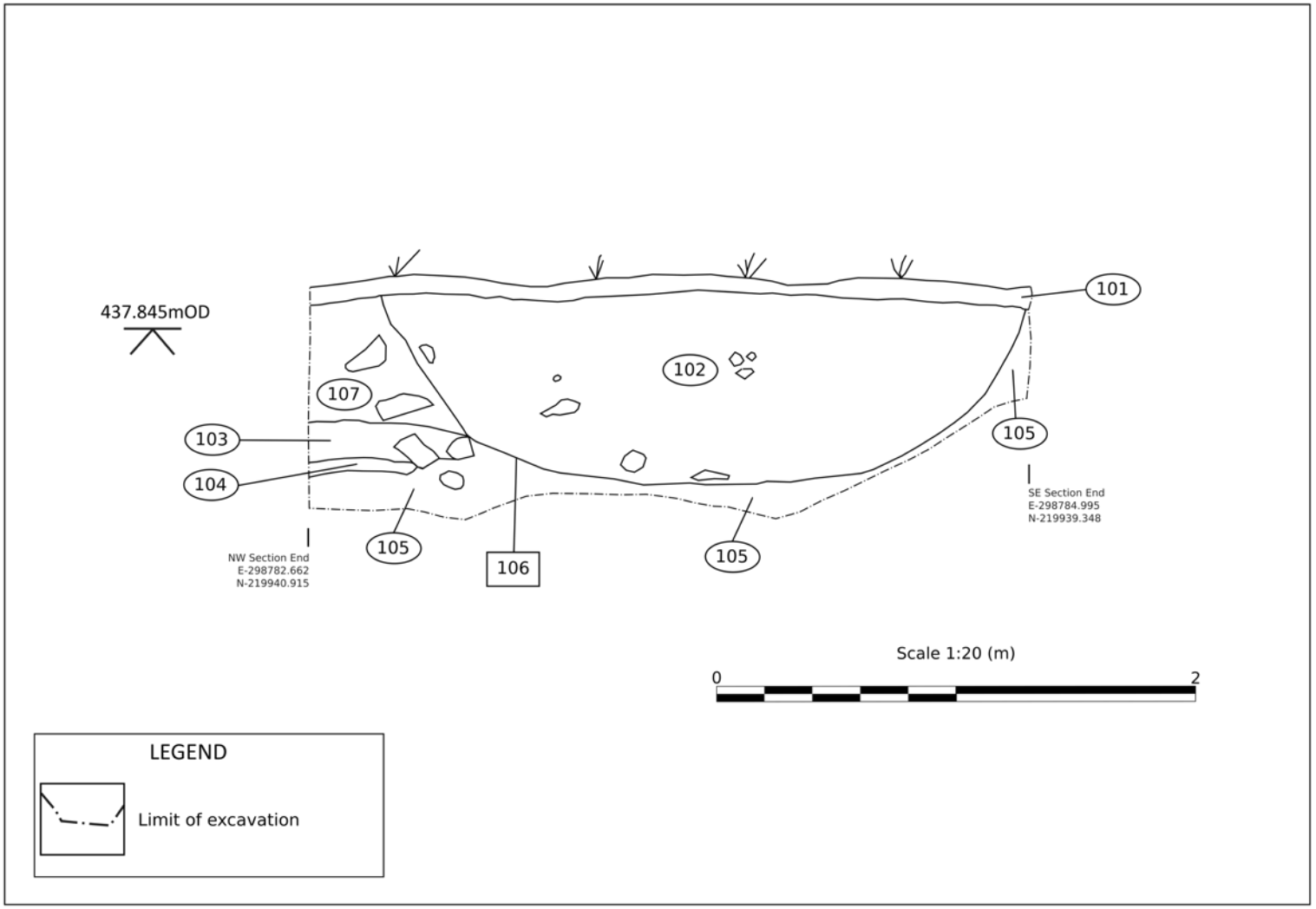

Figure 4. T1 Section Drawing A: SW facing section of Post-medieval ditch 106 in Trench 1.

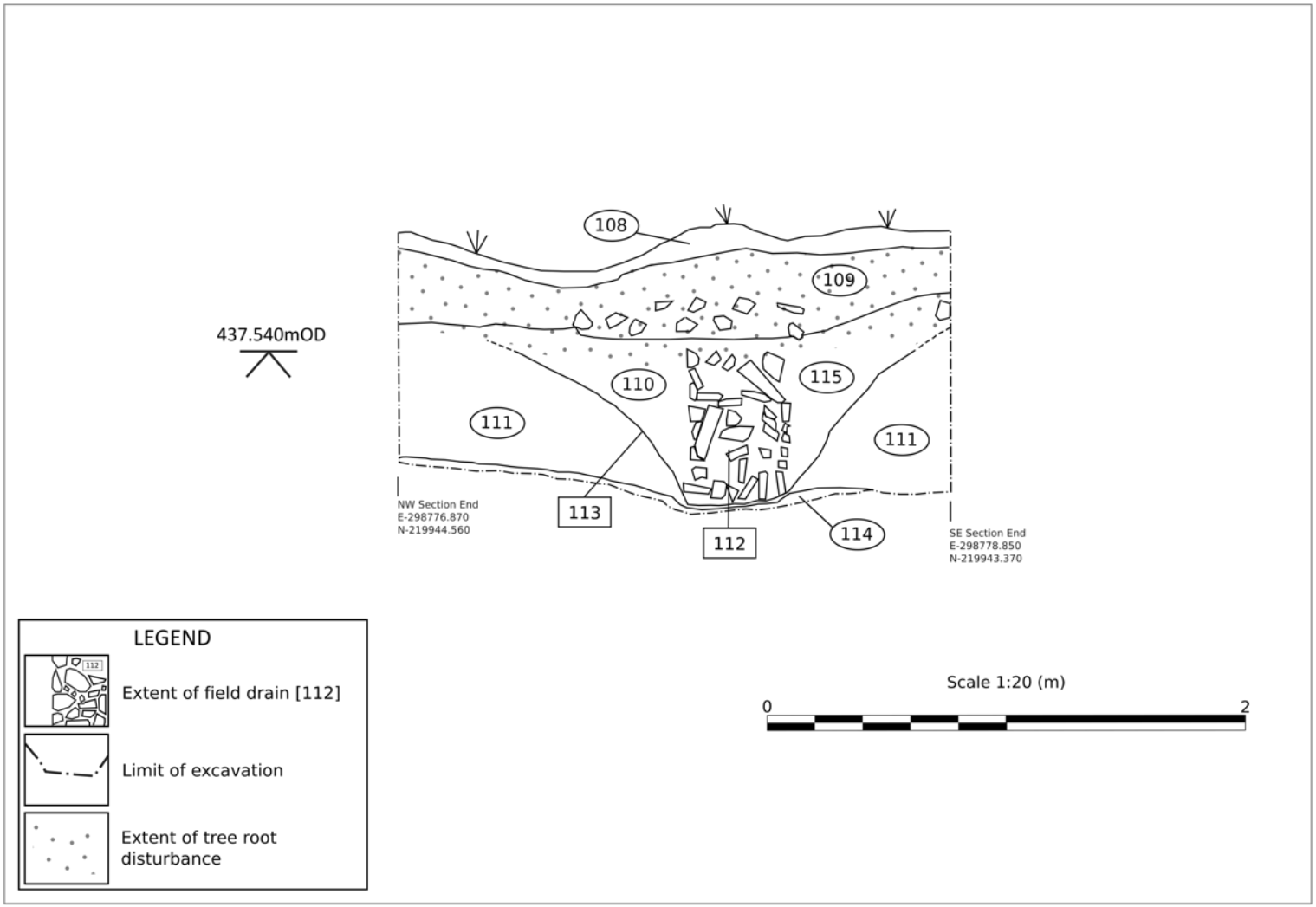

Figure 5. T1 Section Drawing B: SW facing section of Post-medieval field drain 112 in Trench 1.

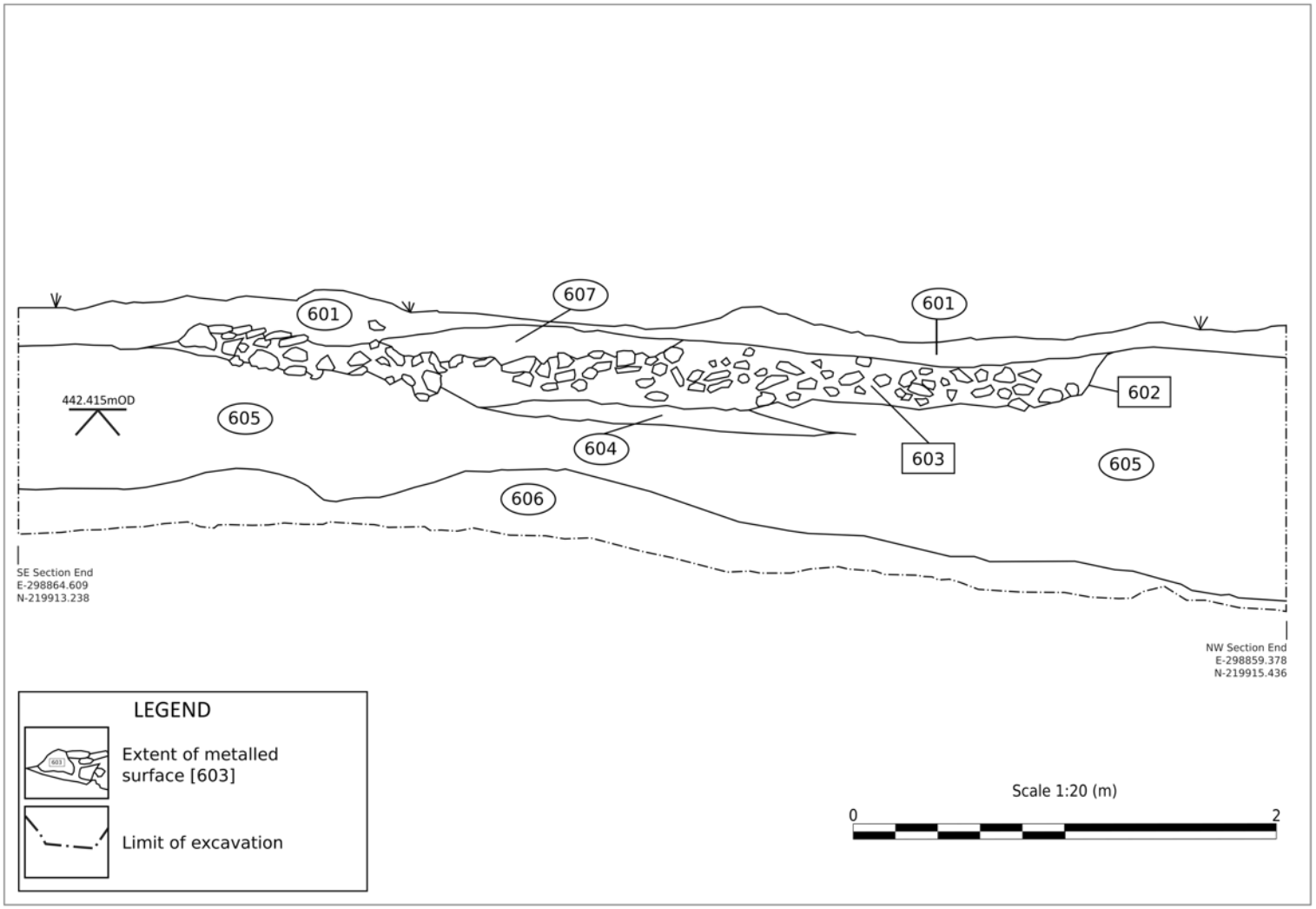

Figure 6. NE facing section of possible Roman road 603 in Trench 6.

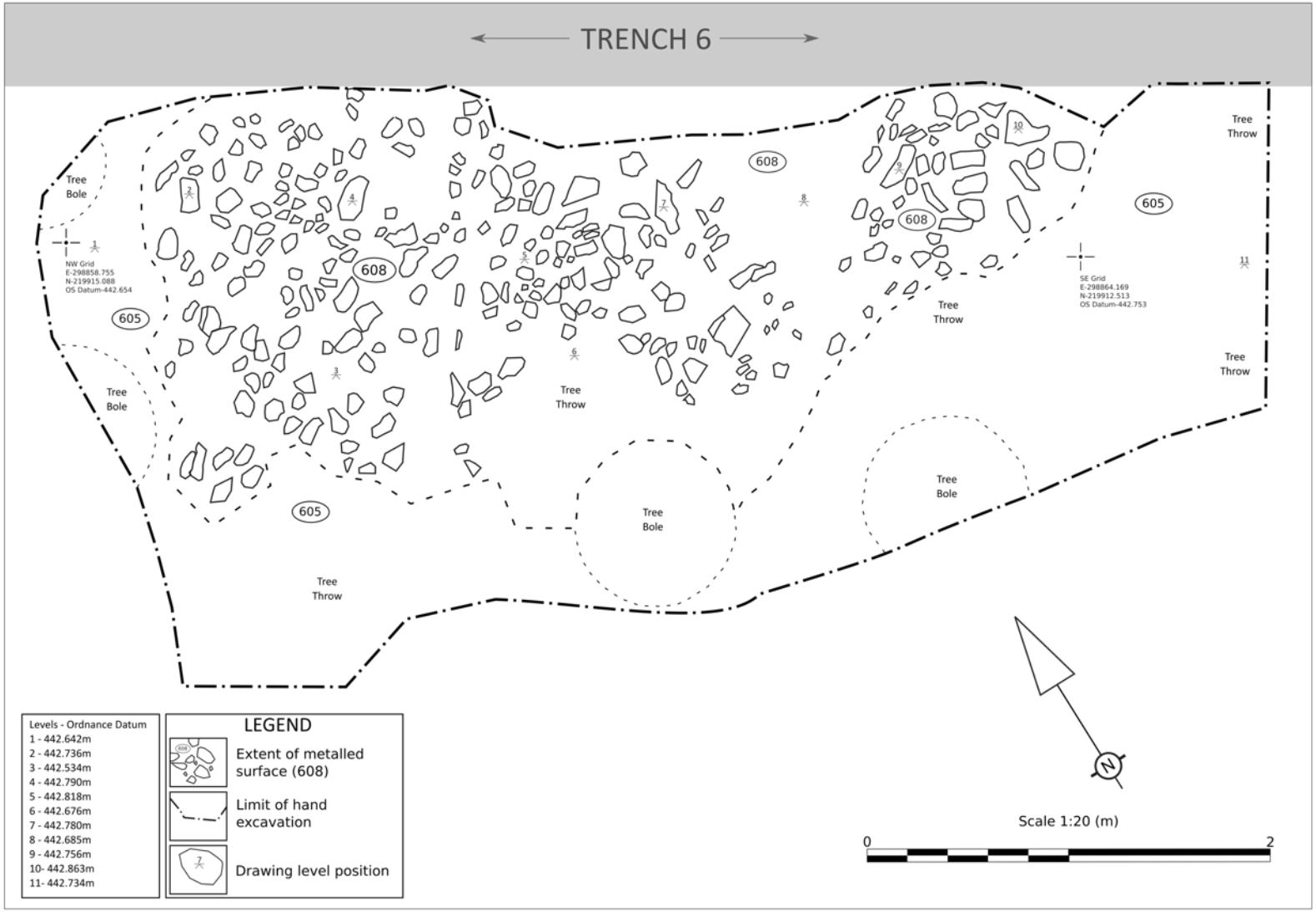

Figure 7. Plan of possible Roman road 603 in Trench 6.

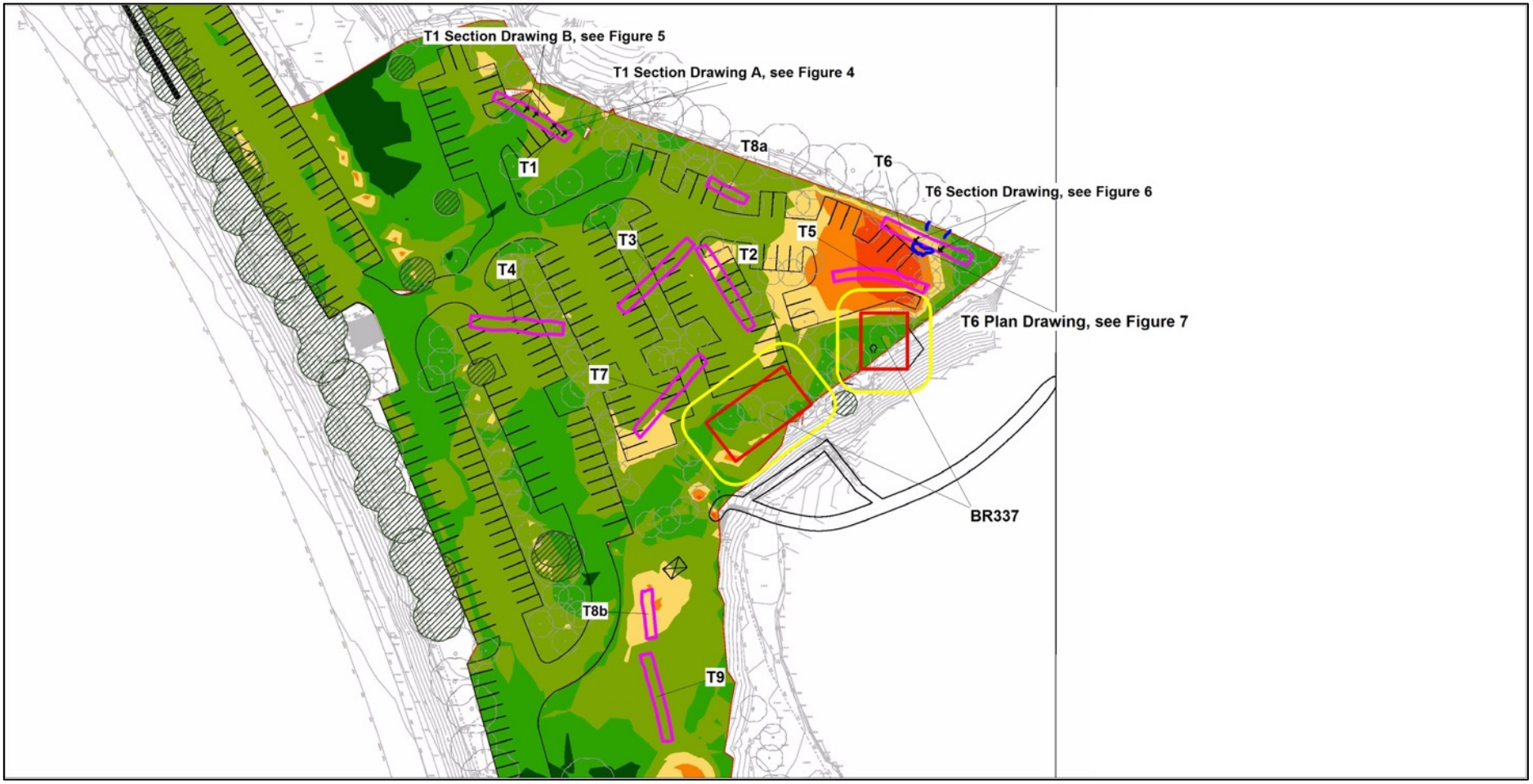

Figure 8. Location of archaeological evaluation trenches (T1-T9) and archaeological discoveries (RR603/608) overlaid onto Cut and Fill Plan 10039-102. Scheduled Ancient Monuments (red polygons), Scheduled Ancient Monument Buffer Areas (yellow polygons).

6.2 Appendix I Plates

Plate 1. Trench 1, view to NNE of post-medieval field drain 112. Scale 1m in 0.5m sections.

Plate 2. Trench 1, view to NNE of post-medieval boundary ditch 106. Scale 1m in 0.5m sections.

Plate 3. View to SW of NE facing trench section in Trench 2 showing contexts 301-304. Scale 1m in 0.5m sections.

Plate 4. View to S of Trench 3. Scale 1m in 0.5m sections

Plate 5. View to W of Trench 4. Scale 1m in 0.5m sections.

Plate 6. View to S of N facing section of Trench 5 during excavation.

Plate 7. View to SW of NE facing section of Trench 6 showing probable Roman road 603 (14900). Scales in 0.5m sections.

Plate 8. View to NE of fully exposed probable Roman road 603 (14900). Scales in 0.5m sections.

Plate 9. View to NE of fully exposed probable Roman road 603 (14900). Scales in 0.5m sections.

Plate 10. View to NE of Trench 7. Scale 2m in 0.5m sections.

Plate 11. View to NW of Trench 8a. Scale in 0.5m sections.

Plate 12. View to S of Trench 9. Scale in 0.5m sections

6.3 Appendix III Context Inventory

6.3.1 All trenches encountered frequent tree stumps and root mat associated with recently felled forestry.

6.3.2 Trench 1

6.3.3 Level of present ground surface: W end 437.963mOD, E end 438.045mOD. Trench length 17.70m, width 2m (length constrained due to presence of watercourse). Average depth 1m. Trench contains two features, a Post-medieval boundary ditch and field drain.

Context	Type	Depth	Description	Period
101	Deposit	0m – 0.08m	Dark-brown friable sandy loam top soil, heavy bioturbation. Overlies 102 and 107.	Modern
102	Deposit	0.08m – 0.87m	Fill of cut 006. Mid-brown sandy loam. Contains frequent post-medieval ceramics and glass. Frequent charcoal.	Post-medieval
103	Deposit	0.6m – 0.74m	Reddish-brown sandy loam subsoil. Underlies 107; overlies 104. Equivalent to 111.	Natural
104	Deposit	0.72m – 0.78m	Pale grey silty-clay lens. Underlies 103; overlies 105.	Natural
105	Deposit	0.78m – 0.98m n.b	Orange-brown sandy weathered bedrock. Equivalent to 114.	Natural
106	Cut	0.08m – 0.88m	Field boundary ditch. Cut contains 102. Cuts through 103.	Post-medieval
107	Deposit	0.12m – 0.60m	Mid-brown sandy-silt loam. Heavy bioturbation.	Natural
108	Deposit	0m – 0.1m	Equivalent to 101. Dark-brown friable sandy loam top soil, heavy bioturbation. Overlies 109.	Modern
109	Deposit	0.1m – 0.48m	Mid-brown sandy loam subsoil. Frequent small (< 0.08m) cobbles. Heavy bioturbation (tree roots). Overlies 110 and 111.	Natural
110	Deposit	0.48m – 1.06m	Fill of 113 field drain cut. Grey-brown alluvial sandy clay. Overlies 111. Abuts 112. Underlies 109. Identical to 115	Post-medieval
111	Deposit	0.48m – 1.12m	Reddish-brown sandy loam subsoil. Equivalent to 103.	Natural
112	Structure	0.48m – 1.12m	Field drain, 0.4m wide x 0.64m in depth. Contains frequent angular stones (<0.22m).	Post-medieval
113	Cut	0.48m – 1.12m	Wide cut made for field drain 112. Underlies 109. Contains 110 and 112.	Post-medieval
114	Deposit	1.12m – 1.14m n.b	Orange-brown sandy weathered bedrock. Equivalent to 105.	Natural
115	Deposit	0.48m – 1.06m	Fill of 113 field drain cut. Grey-brown alluvial sandy clay. Overlies 111. Abuts 112. Underlies 109. Identical to 110.	Post-medieval

Trench coordinates (SN): NW 298770.010, 219947.750; SW 298769.210, 219946.070; NE 298786.090, 219938.610; SE 298784.600, 219936.960. All depths below present ground surface. n.b = not bottomed

6.3.4 Trench 2

6.3.5 Level of present ground surface: NW end 439.016mOD, SE end 439.880mOD. Trench length 20m, width 2m. Average depth 0.6m. No evidence of any archaeological deposits or features.

Context	Type	Depth	Description	Period
201	Deposit	0m - 0.1m	A friable dark brown sandy silt loam topsoil, heavy bioturbation (tree roots). Charcoal and clinker present. Single sherd of local courseware. Overlies 202.	Modern, Post-medieval
202	Deposit	0.1m – 0.2m	A friable grey-brown sandy silt loam. Overlies 203.	Natural
203	Deposit	0.2m - 0.6m	A friable buff coloured sandy silt loam. Overlies 204.	Natural
204	Deposit	0.6m – 0.65m n.b	Fractured and weathered bedrock (mudstone).	Natural

Trench coordinates (SN): NW 298814.750, 219914.760; SW 298812.730, 219913.800; NE 298825.290, 219897.310; SE 298823.910, 219896.190. All depths below present ground surface. n.b = not bottomed

6.3.6 Trench 3

6.3.7 Level of present ground surface: NE end 439.070mOD, SW end 438.100mOD. Trench length 20m, width 2m. Average depth 0.45m. No evidence of any archaeological deposits or features.

Context	Type	Depth	Description	Period
301	Deposit	0m – 0.2m	A friable dark brown sandy silt loam topsoil, heavy bioturbation (tree roots). Single sherd of white earthenware transfer printed willow pattern plate rim. Overlies 302.	Modern, Post-medieval
302	Deposit	0.2m – 0.3m	Grey-brown silty sandy silt loam subsoil. Overlies 303	Natural
303	Deposit	0.3m – 0.6m	A friable buff coloured sandy silt loam. Overlies 304.	Natural
304	Deposit	0.6m n.b	Fractured and weathered bedrock (mudstone).	Natural

Trench coordinates (SN): NW 298810.740, 219916.210; SW 298795.940, 219901.500; NE 298812.380, 219914.720; SE 298797.54, 219889.910. All depths below present ground surface. n.b = not bottomed

6.3.8 Trench 4

6.3.9 Level of present ground surface: E end 437.200mOD, W end 436.400mOD. Trench length 20m, width 2m. Average depth 0.85m. No evidence of any archaeological deposits or features.

Context	Type	Depth	Description	Period
401	Deposit	0m – 0.2m	A friable dark brown sandy loam topsoil, heavy bioturbation (tree roots). Overlies 402.	Modern
402	Deposit	0.2m – 0.4m	Dark-brown friable silty sandy loam. Overlies 403.	Natural
403	Deposit	0.4m – 0.64m	Pale yellowish friable grey silty sandy loam. Abundance of large stones, possible debris from demolition of Storey Arms(?) Overlies 404.	Natural
404	Deposit	0.64m – 0.85m	Friable reddish orange silty sandy loam. Weathered bedrock interface.	Natural

Trench coordinates (SN): NW 298764.490, 219899.350; SW 298764.280, 219896.960; NE 298784.320, 219897.710; SE 298784.170, 219895.330. All depths below present ground surface. n.b = not bottomed

6.3.10 Trench 5

6.3.11 Level of present ground surface: E end 442.270mOD, W end 441.220mOD. L-shaped trench, length 20m, width 2m, repositioned to test survival of probable Roman road identified in T6. Average depth 1.05m. Plough soil present (502), no other evidence of any archaeological deposits or features.

Context	Type	Depth	Description	Period
500	Deposit	0m – 0.1m	In south facing section only. Dark-grey silty clay loam topsoil, heavily disturbed by tree stumps and roots. Overlies 502.	Modern
501	Deposit	0m – 0.22m	Dark-grey silty clay loam. Possible tree bole. Overlies 502.	Modern
502	Deposit	0m – 0.5m	Brown silt-loam containing clay lens (503) and isolated worn cobbles, possibly ploughed out remains of probable Roman road 603.	Roman/Post-medieval/ Modern
503	Cut	0.06m in thickness	Grey-brown clay loam lens within 502.	Natural
504	Deposit	0.04m thick x 0.5m long	Large root canal. Contained by 502.	Post-medieval/ Modern
505	Structure	0.5m – 0.96m	Orange-brown sandy silt loam natural subsoil with pale pink and grey mottling. No inclusions. Underlies 502. Equivalent to 605.	Natural
506	Deposit	0.96m – 1.05m n.b	Pale grey weathered mudstone bedrock in a sandy silt matrix. Underlies 505.	Natural

Trench coordinates (SN): NW 298841.950, 219908.910; SW 298842.280, 219906.790; Mid-point N 298852.090, 219909.540; Mid-point S 298852.240, 219907.400; NE 298862.460, 219905.990; SE 298861.350, 219904.280. All depths below present ground surface. n.b = not bottomed

6.3.12 Trench 6

6.3.13 Level of present ground surface: E end 442.630mOD, W end 443.081mOD. Trench length 20m, width 2m. Average depth 1.25m. Probable Roman road (603) identified in section.

Context	Type	Depth	Description	Period
601	Deposit	0m - 0.18m	Dark brown sandy clay loam topsoil with high bioturbation and moderate quantities of sandstone pebbles (<1mm-10mm). Very disturbed by forestry planting. Finds include clinker, coke, glass and willow pattern transfer printed white earthenware.. Equivalent to 602. Overlies 603, 605 and 607.	Post-medieval/ Modern
602	Deposit	0m - 0.44m	Possible cut for 603.	Roman?
603	Structure	0.3m average thickness	Metalled surface 4.5m wide, probable Roman road, no dating evidence. Fairly level upper 'road' surface with u-shaped profile. Consists of sub-angular river-worn cobbles in a pinky-brown sand clay matrix. Overlies hard mudstone gravel deposit (604), probably intentional, and the pale orange-brown sandy silt-loam subsoil (605). Underlies 601, 602 and 607.	Roman?
604	Deposit	0.1m average thickness	Yellow-brown weathered bedrock deposit in a sand matrix, possibly redeposited (glacial). Forms the base of the probable Roman road (603). Overlies 605.	Natural

Context	Type	Depth	Description	Period
605	Deposit	0.44m – 0.8m	Deposit varies in thickness between 0.65m and 1.13m along trench length. Pale orange-brown sandy silt-loam subsoil, free from inclusions. Underlies 601, 602, 603 and 604.	Natural
606	Deposit	0.8m – 1.25m n.b	Yellow brown sandy silt loam free from inclusions. Underlies 605.	Natural
607	Deposit	0.18m average thickness	Pinky-brown weathered bedrock in a sand matrix used to bind the metalled surface (probable Roman road) 603.	Roman?
608	Structure	4.5m x 1.6m area	Equivalent to 603. Probable Roman road excavated and revealed in plan. Consists of small river worn pebbles. No dating evidence from the surface of the road.	Roman?

Trench coordinates (SN): NW 298853.300, 219920.650; SW 298852.330, 219918.730; NE 298871.840, 219912.360; SE 298870.930, 219910.330. All depths below present ground surface. n.b = not bottomed

6.3.14 Trench 7

6.3.15 Level of present ground surface: NE end 438.950mOD, SW end 437.830mOD. Trench length 20m, width 2m. Average depth 0.45m. No evidence of any archaeological deposits or features.

Context	Type	Depth	Description	Period
701	Deposit	0m-0.25m	Red brown gravel temporary forestry road surface.	Modern
702	Deposit	0.25m – 0.4m	Brown sandy loam subsoil with frequent bioturbation from tree roots.	Natural
703	Deposit	0.4m – 0.45mn.b	Red-brown silty sand.	Natural

Trench coordinates (SN): NW 298813.390, 219891.070; SW 298799.390, 219874.880; NE 298814.980, 219889.310; SE 298800.640, 219873.070. All depths below present ground surface. n.b = not bottomed

6.3.16 Trench 8a

6.3.17 Level of present ground surface: W end 439.229mOD, E end 439.771mOD. Trench length 10m, width 2m. Average depth 0.75m. No evidence of any archaeological deposits or features.

Context	Type	Depth	Description	Period
801a	Deposit	0-0.3m	Dark-brown friable sandy loam top soil, heavy bioturbation. Overlies 802a.	Post-medieval/ Modern
802a	Deposit	0.3m – 0.55m	Pinky-brown friable silt clay loam subsoil. Overlies 803a.	Natural
803a	Deposit	0.55m – 0.75m n.b	Friable grey silt clay loam.	Natural

Trench coordinates (SN): NW 298815.980, 219929.440; SW 298814.960, 219927.490; NE 298824.010, 219925.150; SE 298822.980, 219923.610. All depths below present ground surface. n.b = not bottomed

6.3.18 Trench 8b

6.3.19 Level of present ground surface: N end 436.831mOD, S end 436.386mOD. Trench length 10m, width 2m. Average depth 0.45m. No evidence of any archaeological deposits or features.

Context	Type	Depth	Description	Period
801b	Deposit	0m - 0.1m	Dark-brown friable sandy loam top soil, heavy bioturbation. Overlies 802b.	Post-medieval/ modern
802b	Deposit	0.1m -0.3m	Friable mid-brown sandy silt subsoil. Overlies 803b.	Natural
803b	Deposit	0.3m - 0.45m n.b	Friable Orange-brown sandy silt (weathered mudstone bedrock).	Natural

Trench coordinates (SN): NW 298801.180, 219839.870; SW 298802.170, 219829.660; NE 298803.310, 219840.280; SE 298804.210, 219829.870. All depths below present ground surface. n.b = not bottomed

6.3.20 Trench 9

6.3.21 Level of present ground surface: N end 436.094mOD, S end 435.541mOD. Trench length 20m, width 2m. Average depth 0.45m. No evidence of any archaeological deposits or features.

Context	Type	Depth	Description	Period
901	Deposit	0m - 0.1m	Dark-brown friable sandy loam top soil, heavy bioturbation. Overlies 902.	Post-medieval/ modern
902	Deposit	0.1m -0.3m	Friable mid-brown sandy silt subsoil. Overlies 903.	Natural
903	Deposit	0.3m - 0.48m n.b	Friable Reddish-brown sandy silt, weathered mudstone bedrock.	Natural

Trench coordinates (SN): NW 298800.750, 219825.980; SW 298805.550, 219807.520; NE 298803.030, 219826.500; SE 298807.660, 219807.750. All depths below present ground surface. n.b = not bottomed

Acknowledgements and Copyright

6.3.22 The fieldwork was undertaken by Richard Lewis BA MCIfA and Dr Graham Eyre-Morgan MCIfA. The report and illustrations were prepared by Richard Lewis. The author would like to thank Claudine Gerrard and Rob Reith (National Trust), and Alice Thorne (BBNP) for helpful advice and support. Archaeology Wales Ltd kindly provided copyright permission to reproduce the contour survey depicted in Figures 1b, 2b and 3b (Stafford 2017, Fig.10).

Plate 13. Old photograph showing Edwardian skiers outside the Storey Arms Inn.

Yn rhan o'n hawydd i wella ansawdd ein gwasanaeth, rydym yn croesawu unrhyw adborth y gallwch ei ddarparu.
As part of our desire to improve our quality of service we welcome any feedback you are able to provide.

Archaeoleg Mynydd Du Cyf/Black Mountains Archaeology Ltd
Swyddfa Gofrestredig/Registered Office. Waenllapria, Bryn Llanelli/Llanelly Hill, Y Fenni/Abergavenny, NP7 0PT.
Cofrestredig yng Nghymru, Rhif y Cwmni/Registered in Wales, Company No. 10679784
Ffôn/Tel. 07834715033
E-bost/Email. Richard@blackmountainsarchaeology.com
Gwefan/Web. https://blackmountainsarchaeology.com/
Cymdeithasol/Social. https://twitter.com/bmarchaeology?lang=en-gb