

**MEADOW VIEW, LLANGOEDMOR,
CEREDIGION
(SN 2011 4580)
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

January 2010



Prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust
For: Mr. Roe



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MEADOW VIEW, LLANGOEDMOR, CERDIGION, ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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SUMMARY

Planning permission was granted for the construction of a new dwelling at Meadow View, Llangoedmor, Ceredigion (NGR SN 2011 4580; Planning Application Number A090629). A requirement for an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken during groundworks at the site was placed on the planning permission following advice from the archaeological advisors to the planning authority. Mr Roe, the applicant, commissioned Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services to carry out the watching brief in January 2010.

The planning condition was placed on the development due to the building plot lying in close proximity to the Parish Church of Llangoedmor, which has early medieval origins. The aim of the watching brief was to identify and record any archaeological remains that could be exposed, damaged or destroyed by the development.

The footprint of the proposed building was excavated down to the natural subsoil by machine, which measured 9.75 x 6.70 metres. A large circular pit, a stake hole and a nearby smaller pit were all located within the development area. All three features are considered to be date before the post-medieval period, due to the character of the fills. No finds were recovered to provide dates for the features. The circular pit contained a quantity of charcoal and fragments of burnt bone, which may indicate the pit was filled with debris from a hearth or fire.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Commission

1.1.1 Planning permission was granted for the construction of a new dwelling at Meadow View, Llangoedmor, Ceredigion (NGR SN 2011 4580; Planning Application Number A090629). A requirement for an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken during groundworks at the site was placed on the planning permission following advice from Dyfed Archaeological Trust Heritage Management (DAT-HM), the archaeological advisors to the planning authority. Mr Roe, the applicant, commissioned Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services to carry out the watching brief in January 2010.

1.1.2 The planning condition was placed on the development due to the building plot lying in close proximity to the Parish Church of Llangoedmor, which has early medieval origins.

1.1.3 Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services were commissioned by Mr Roe to undertake the watching brief in December 2009, to fulfil works.

1.2 Scope of the Project

1.2.1 The aim of the watching brief was to record any features or deposits of archaeological significance that might be exposed, damaged or destroyed by the ground works within the footprint of the proposed building.

1.3 Report Outline

1.3.1 This report describes the location of the site along with its archaeological background before summarising the watching brief results and the conclusions based on those results.

1.4 Abbreviations

1.4.1 Sites recorded on the Regional Historic Environment Record (HER¹) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR).

1.5 Illustrations

1.5.1 Record photographs are included at back of the report. Printed map extracts are not necessarily reproduced to their original scale and are illustrative only.

¹ Held and managed by Dyfed Archaeological Trust, The Shire Hall, Llandeilo.

2 THE SITE

2.1 Location

2.1.1 The building plot of Meadow View is located near the centre of Llangoedmor, Ceredigion (NGR SN 2011 4580). The plot is situated 158 metres to the west of the medieval Parish church and early medieval churchyard of Llangoedmor. A small stream runs west-east around 20m to the south of the southern boundary of the plot.

2.1.2 Llangoedmor lies around 2km to the east of Cardigan.

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

2.2.1 The area surrounding the building plot contains a number of sites of archaeological and historical interest. These sites range from the Prehistoric period through to the post medieval period.

2.2.2 A standing stone of possible Bronze Age date is situated 310 metres northeast of the site (PRN 8,068, NGR SN 2040 4591). The date of the stone is questionable as it could be a post medieval rubbing stone.

2.2.2 The church and churchyard (PRN 50,143) at Llangoedmor are dedicated to Saint Cynllo, a Celtic Saint. This dedication may indicate that the church and graveyard are of a pre-conquest foundation (early medieval period, pre-dating 1100). The existing church building (PRN 5,305) was originally constructed in the medieval period; however, the present church was largely rebuilt between 1830 and 1832 (Ludlow, 2004).

2.2.3 The archaeological sites, which are situated in the surrounding area, could indicate that there is potential for Prehistoric or medieval archaeological features to be present within the proposed development area.

2.1.2 The First Edition (1891) and second edition (1906) Ordnance Survey maps both show the development area as being located within an arable field, indicating the area had not been previously developed in the post medieval period.

3 WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY AND RESULTS

3.1 Watching brief methodology

3.1.1 The watching brief comprised a single site visit to monitor the removal of the topsoil and subsoil (28th January 2010), which was contained within the buildings footprint. The topsoil and subsoil was removed by a 360 excavator, using a toothless bucket. The required depths exceeded the natural subsoil's depth and therefore, when the natural subsoil was reached this layer was then cleaned with the toothless bucket to see whether any archaeological features were present.

3.2 Results

3.2.1 The building plot was located on a south-facing slope, which had been used to dispose of modern building debris, presumably originating from development of the adjacent buildings. This building debris layer proved to be up to 1 metre deep in places and covered the natural topography of the land.

3.2.2 Following the removal of the modern debris layer a buried mid brown silty clay topsoil was revealed, of 0.30m depth, containing occasional small sub angular stones. Beneath this topsoil a light orangey brown subsoil was observed, measuring c.0.27m in depth.

3.2.3 The underlying natural undisturbed substrata, a mid-yellowish brown silty clay, was observed at a depth of 1.47m below ground level.

3.2.4 A modern water pipe trench was noted crossing the proposed development area. The cut for the water pipe trench measured 0.20m in width and continued across the development plot from north to south.

3.2.5 Three archaeologically significant features were revealed within the building plot, lying beneath the subsoil and cutting through the natural substrata. A circular pit [104], measuring c.1.20m in diameter and c.0.27m in depth. The pit contained a light yellowish brown, silty clay with occasional small pieces of charcoal, quartz and burnt fragments of bone. The bone showed signs of being heated under high temperatures. An animal tooth was recovered from the fill which suggests that the pit had most likely been backfilled with debris from a fire or a hearth, as opposed to being a pit associated with a cremation burial. The pit fill contained no dateable artefacts and it is considered that it pre dates the post medieval period.

3.2.6 A stake hole [106] was recorded 0.18m to the south east of pit [104]. The feature was very shallow, filled with a mid greyish brown soil with charcoal. The feature measured 0.30 metres in diameter and 0.09 metres in depth.

3.2.7 Situated 1.8m to the west of pit [104], another smaller pit was present. This pit had an almost identical fill to the stake hole [106] and could be considered contemporary.

3.2.8 No dating evidence was recovered from any of the features.

4 CONCLUSIONS

4.1 The archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the development of a new dwelling at Meadow View, Llangoedmor revealed three features of archaeological significance. These included two pits and a possible stake hole.

4.2 It is likely that other archaeological features are present in the area surrounding the development which would provide further evidence regarding what they represent. The nature of the features, pits and a stake hole, could indicate settlement activity in the area, although this cannot be confirmed within the scope of the evaluation.

4.2 No dating evidence was recovered from the fills of the features. The lack of ceramic material may indicate a medieval or earlier date, as from the post medieval period onwards such material is generally found on most sites.

4.3 Pit [104] contained bone that had been burnt at a high temperature, which could indicate a cremation, although as an animal tooth was also found in the pit, this is considered unlikely. It is probable that the bone originated from within a domestic hearth or fire, and the pit filled with the resulting debris when cleaned out. The edges of the pit showed no signs of heat and it was therefore most likely a pit dug out to dispose of rubbish. The fill of the pit also shows signs that it was backfilled in one episode, again pointing to it being a rubbish pit. It is unknown if all of the features are roughly contemporary, although it is considered quite likely.

4.4 The archaeological remains within the proposed development site were appropriately recorded prior during the development programme. The results indicate that there is still a high potential for archaeological remains to be present in the surrounding area of the development, which may also contain evidence that would provide more information on the date, character and extent of the archaeology in the area. There is still the possibility that the remains indicate the presence of an early medieval or medieval settlement situated within the area close to the church, as was identified as a main potential, and the reason for requiring the watching brief, by the archaeological advisors to the planning authority.

5 SOURCES

Map

Ordnance Survey, 1891, Pembrokeshire Sheet XLIV NE 1st edition 1:10,560

Ordnance Survey, 1906, Pembrokeshire Sheet XLIV NE 2nd edition 1:10,560

Ordnance Survey, 1996, Cardigan and Mynydd Preseli. 1:50 000

Unpublished Sources

Ludlow, N. 2004. Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites Project. Cambria (Dyfed Archaeological Trust).

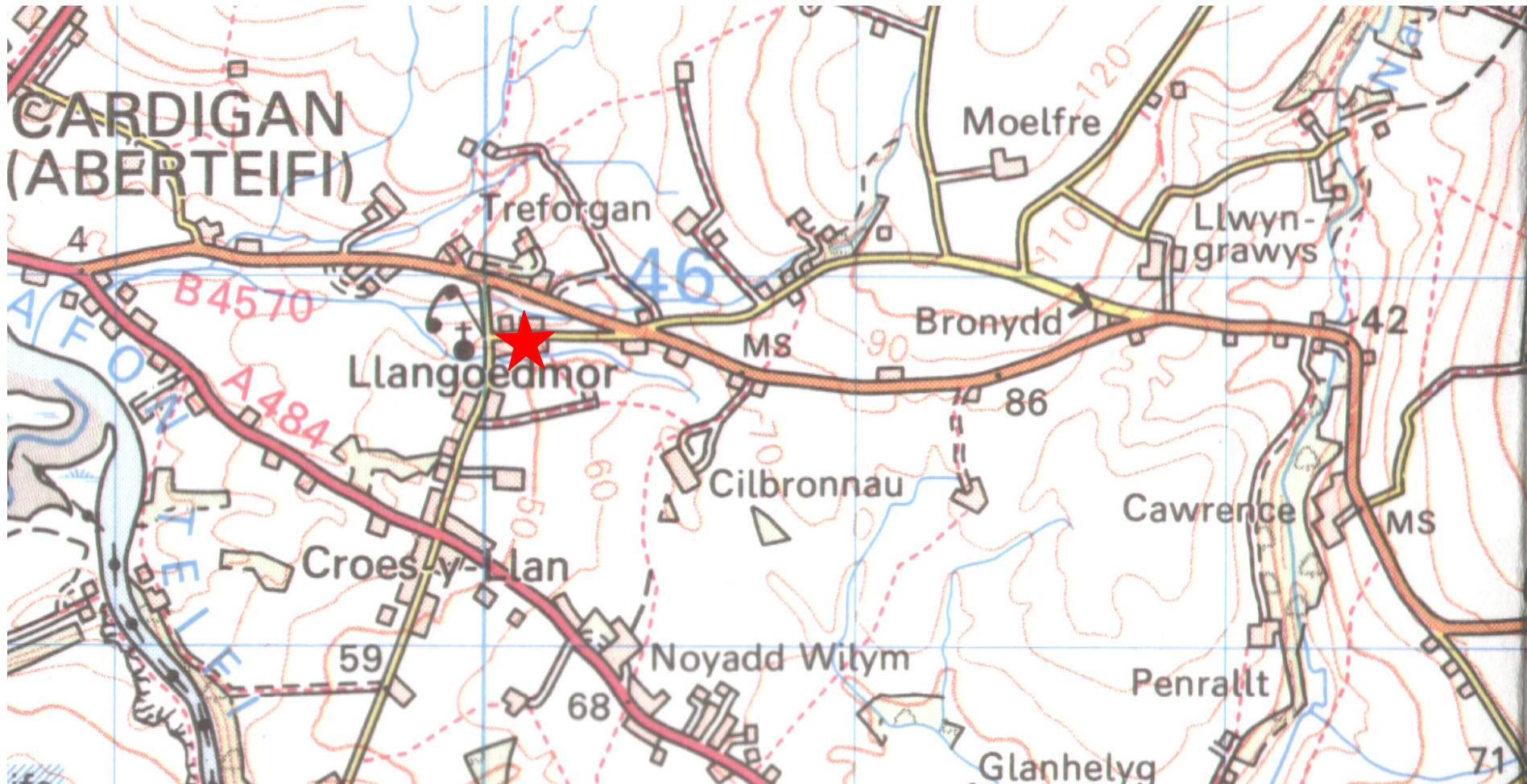


Figure 1: Location map, based on the Ordnance Survey.

Reproduced from the 1995 Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 scale Landranger Map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright Cambria Archaeology, The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF. Licence No AL51842A

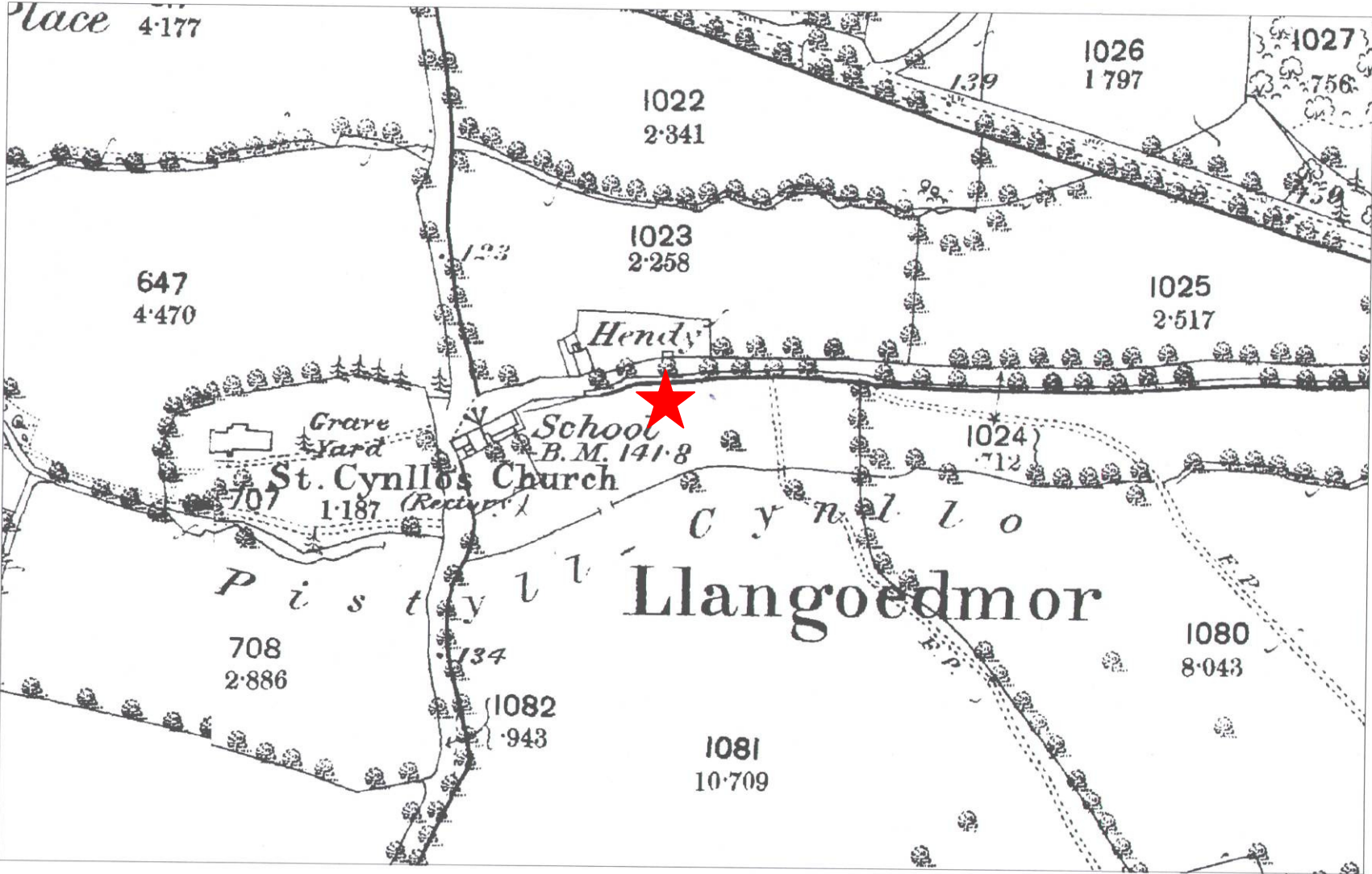


Figure 2: Extract of 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891 showing site location.

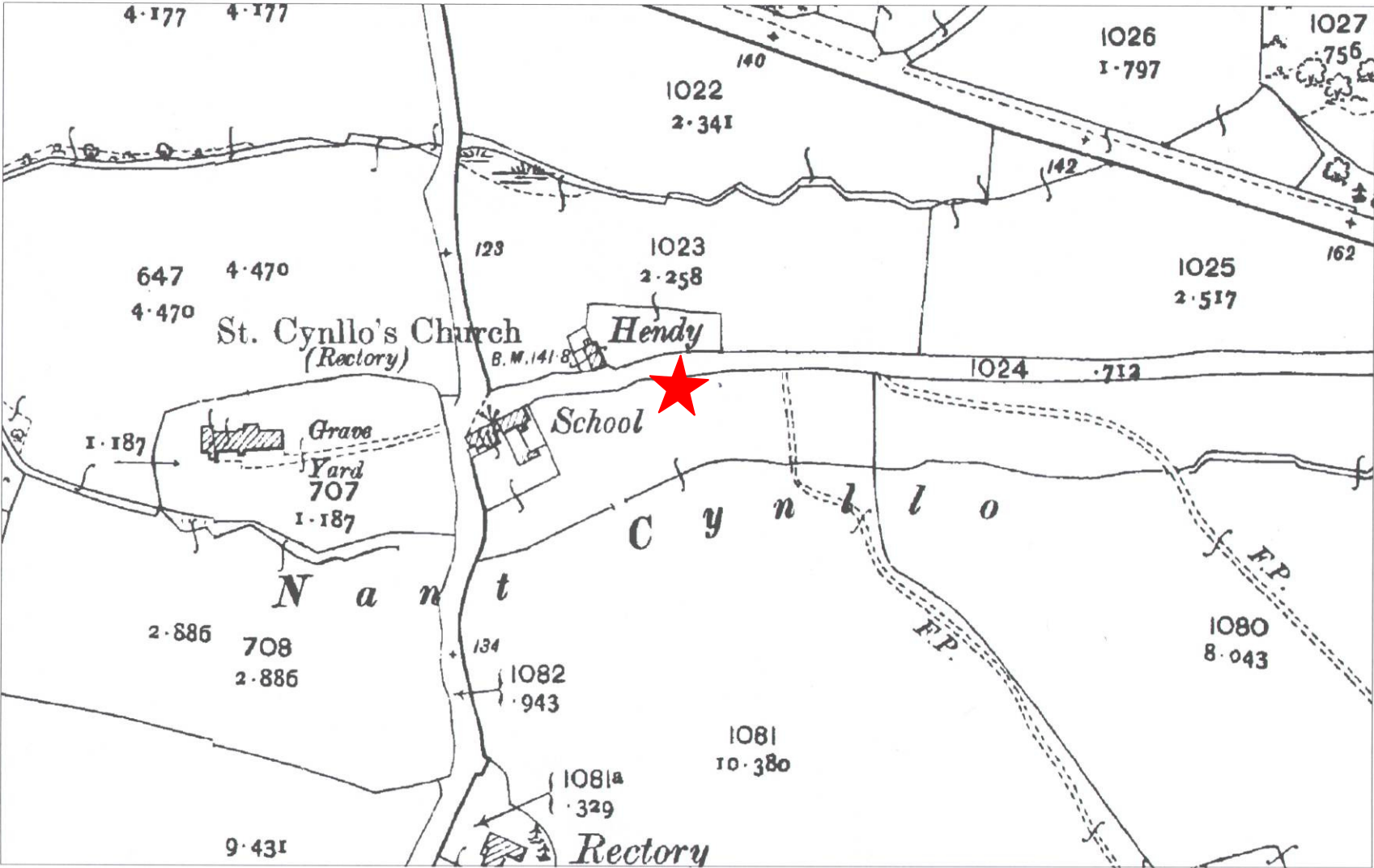


Figure 3: Extract of Ordnance Survey map of 1906 showing site location.

<i>Period</i>	<i>Approximate Date</i>
Palaeolithic	c.225,000 BC – 10,000 BC
Mesolithic	c.10,000 BC – c.3500 BC
Neolithic	c.3500 BC – c.2000 BC
Bronze Age	c.2000 BC – c.600 BC
Iron Age	c.600 BC – 43 AD
Roman	43 AD – 410 AD
Early Medieval	410 AD - 1066
Medieval	1066 - 1485
Post Medieval	1485 – c.1900
Modern	c.1900 onwards

Table 1: Archaeological and Historical Timeline for Wales.



Photo 1: Pre-ex photo showing development site.



Photo 2: Photo showing removal of modern debris.



Photo 3: Photo looking north at half sectioned pit [104].



Photo 4: Photo looking northwest showing stake hole [106].



Photo 5: Photo looking north showing shallow pit [108].

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Andrew Shobbrook

Swydd / Position: Archaeologist

Llofnod / Signature Date

Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi ei gael yn gywir a derbyn sêl bendith
This report has been checked and approved by

James Meek

ar ran Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf.
on behalf of Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Swydd / Position: Head of Field Services

Llofnod / Signature Date

*Yn unol â'n nôd i roddi gwasanaeth o ansawdd uchel, croesawn unrhyw sylwadau
sydd gennych ar gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn*

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