

Tremains Farm, Llanmaes

Archaeological Watching Brief



Prepared
for

Paul Lindsay

By



**- BLACK MOUNTAINS ARCHAEOLOGY -
- ARCHAEOLEG MYNYDD DU -**

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Summary

Comisiynwyd Archeoleg Mynydd Du Cyf gan Paul Lindsay i gwblhau briff gwyllo archeolegol ar gyfer datblygiad arfaethedig yn Tremains Farm, Llanmaes, Bro Morgannwg, CF 61 2FX.

Oherwydd bod cloddiadau hanesyddol eisoes wedi'u cynnal yn yr ardal ddatblygiad arfaethedig gofynnwyd y cynghorwyr archeolegol i'r awdurdod cynllunio lleol i adrannau ac ardaloedd agored gael eu glanhau a'u cofnodi er mwyn geisio nodi lefelau ddaear gwreiddiol ac unrhyw olion archeolegol.

Ni nodwyd unrhyw nodweddion neu dyddodion o darddiad archeolegol yn yr ardal gloddio.

Mae'r adroddiad presennol yn nodi canlyniadau'r briff gwyllo archeolegol, a hynny'n unol â Safon Sefydliad Siartredig Archeolegwyr a chanllawiau ar gyfer briff gwyllo archeolegol. Cyhoeddwyd 2014.

Black Mountains Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Paul Lindsay to undertake an archaeological watching brief for a proposed development at Tremains Farm, Llanmaes, Vale of Glamorgan, CF61 2FX.

Due to historic excavations already conducted within the proposed development area the archaeological advisors to the local planning authority (GGAT) requested for exposed sections and areas to be cleaned and recorded to try and identify original ground levels and any archaeological remains.

The investigations did not identify any features or deposits of archaeological origin in the exposed sections of the excavated area.

The present report sets out the results of the archaeological watching brief in accordance with the professional standards of the 'Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief' (Published 2014).

1 Introduction

1.1 Project background and proposal

- 1.1.1 Black Mountains Archaeology Ltd/Archaeoleg Mynydd Du Cyf were commissioned by Paul Lindsay of Tremains Farm, Llanmaes, CF61 2FX to carry out an archaeological watching brief of the area in order to mitigate the impact on the potential archaeological resource of the work already undertaken.
- 1.1.2 The archaeological advisors to the LPA (GGAT) indicated the potential to encounter multi-period archaeological deposits within the area (Archaeological Planning Advice Letter VOG1365/HB). Consequently, they required a programme of work in the form of an archaeological watching brief. An archaeological watching brief is normally applied to all ground penetrating works for the proposed development. In this instance, historic excavations had taken place so a watching brief in the traditional sense was not possible. Therefore, exposed sections were cleaned and recorded to try and identify original ground levels and any archaeological remains.
- 1.1.3 The present report sets out the specification for the archaeological watching brief in accordance with Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief. Published 2014.

1.2 Objectives

- 1.2.1 The *definition* of an Archaeological Watching Brief as set out by the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists* (CIfA) is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive.
- 1.2.2 A watching brief is not intended to reduce the requirement for excavation or preservation of known or inferred deposits, and it is intended to guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.
- 1.2.3 The objective of a watching brief is to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on a site.
- 1.2.4 (*Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief. Published 2014*).

1.3 Legislative framework

- 1.3.1 *Planning Policy Wales* (PPW 10th 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 2018, 123-129).
- 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 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 development area is situated c. 30m south of the main paddocks associated with Tremains Farm which lies 300m to the west of Llanmaes in the Vale of Glamorgan (NGR SS297866.961,169263.227) (Figure 1). The general height of the existing agricultural landscape is 35m-40mOD.

1.4.2 Tremains Farm is bounded along its southwestern edge by the B4265; the main road running along the northern perimeter of the town of Llantwit Major (Llanilltud Fawr). The farm is bounded on its northwestern, northeastern and southeastern sides with fields laid down to pasture and used for horse riding.

1.4.3 Along the northern edge of these fields the Llanmaes Brook runs east–west. The development area, along with the whole of Llanmaes, is situated on the southwestern edge of a river valley defined by the River Thaw, which flows southward from Cowbridge to the north and into Limpert Bay on the coast. Llanmaes is also situated near the base of a hill which surrounds the village from north to west, on top of which the neighbouring hamlet of Sigingstone is located. The nearest church to the development area is St. Cattwg’s within the village of Llanmaes itself.

1.4.4 The general geology is interbedded carboniferous limestone and mudstone bedrock of the Porthkerry Member Formation formed approximately 190-200 million years ago in the Jurassic Period. Superficial deposits of alluvium, sands and gravels are sporadically recorded in areas of river terrace, river/stream channels and glacial outwash (British Geological Survey). The soils are generally well-drained silty clays and coarse loams.

1.5 Archaeology and history

1.5.1 The archaeological background for the area has been well established by a number of recent investigations (Entec UK Limited 2009; AECOM 2017a&b) and it is not the intention to repeat that extensive information here. However, a short note is made below (Section 1.6) of the previous investigations and archaeological potential of the area.

1.5.2 There is no evidence on historic mapping or in the Historic Environment Record (held by GGAT) of any archaeological sites within the development area, the nearest being the Scheduled Ancient Monument Bedford Castle (SAM Gm113, NPRN 307473, GGATHER02259s).

1.5.3 The site of Bedford Castle is located c.50m to the northeast of the development area. This monument likely dates to the medieval period (c. 1066 – 1540 AD), although a more refined date range has not yet been ascertained. The monument survives as a relatively small earthen mound which, as illustrated in Plate 11, is covered in dense vegetation. Due to its small size there is some debate as to whether this monument constituted a castle at all. The Royal Commission of Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales classifies Bedford Castle as a non-defensive 'moated site' (MS14) and suggests that it may have been a small structure such as a moated pigeon-house (1982, 78).

1.6 Previous investigations

- 1.6.1 A comprehensive EIA was undertaken of the wider area of RAF St Athan in 2009 for a Defence Technical College and Aerospace Business Park (Entec UK Limited 2009). This included a significant volume of geophysical survey. The area around Tremains Farm was surveyed and results showed noise probably relating to the dumping of overburden from the construction of the B4265 in the 20th century. .
- 1.6.2 Following the submission of the ES (Entec UK Limited 2009), a comprehensive archaeological field evaluation of 187 trenches was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology (2010). In the Tremains Farm area (western end of the St Athan NAR between B4265 and the Llanmaes Brook), c.500m to the southeast of the proposed development area, 66 trenches were excavated. Archaeological deposits were identified in 20 of the 66 trenches. The earliest identified were two Early to Middle Bronze Age cremation burials buried beneath a low cairn of stones. These were radiocarbon dated to 1640 cal. BC to 1450 cal. BC. A second potential cairn was identified close by, suggesting that these features may be spread over the wider area (see GGAT HER 04114s-04116s). At least two Bronze Age ring-ditches lie some 500 m to the north, overlooking the Llanmaes Brook, and may form part of a wider ritual landscape, along with the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age midden site found nearby at Llanmaes. Several ditches were identified and were considered to be Romano-British (MAG14&15) and medieval field boundaries (GGAT HER 04117s and 04118s), the latter associated with a concentration of medieval activity around the supposed mill leat identified by geophysics (MAG13).
- 1.6.3 Archaeological investigations of the St Athan Northern Access Road were carried out by Black Mountains Archaeology Ltd in January 2018 and were completed in June 2018. The principle prehistoric discoveries were confined to Areas A and D. Area A contained four sets of double post-holes and two single post-holes broadly distributed across the area. and Area D contained a single ditch with an enlarged central post-hole. The Roman activity was confined to Area D near Milands Farm and principally consisted of nine ditches divided into five phases of activity, multiple working surfaces and two post-holes. The ditches and associated features have been interpreted as forming the edge of a Romano- British farmstead or villa as yet undiscovered.

A small industrial lime manufacturing area was identified at the western end of Area A near Tremains Farm. Two pre-industrial limekilns were recorded together with a handful of post-holes, areas of fire effected clay and charcoal and a large natural fissure in the limestone bedrock containing small 'fist sized' limestone cobbles. The two kilns were probably Flare Kilns and were most likely used to produce agricultural fertiliser but lime trade with the local area and further afield, such as in North Devon, cannot be discounted.

- 1.6.4 In 2019, in fields located c.640m to the southeast of the proposed development area, Black Mountains Archaeology Ltd investigated a major Bronze Age burial site; the ploughed out remains of a large (c40m diameter) round barrow similar to those at Sutton (GGAT HER 00285s), Sheeplays (GGAT HER 00287s and 00288s) and Six Wells (GGAT HER 00289s and 00290s) a few miles to the north.
- 1.6.5 The chronology of the round barrow cairn has been suggested as an initial strip down to limestone bedrock in the Early-Middle Bronze Age with perhaps a central burial cut into limestone bedrock. A mound was then thrown up over the suspected central (primary) burial. Either before or at this time two circular ditches were excavated, encircling the mound. Then the central stone cairn was built, together with a circular kerb of stones. Human burials (inhumations) were laid out amongst the cairn stones during construction.
- 1.6.6 At least three satellite cairns (carbon dated to Middle Bronze Age) were placed around the central cairn at this time (although it is very possible they could have been built later). Then a much larger earthen mound was thrown up burying the stone cairns, stone kerb and ditches. A palisade of posts may have stood around the central cairn. Cremations were then inserted into the final phase mound. A large cremation cemetery to the south west of the round barrow cairn contained over 70 cremations.

2 Methodology

- 2.1.1 Historic excavations had previously been conducted on the proposed development site forming an excavated area measuring 60m x 40m. This has resulted in four exposed sections which were cleaned with hand tools prior to archaeological recording.
- 2.1.2 Overall a total of seven sample sections were recorded located at intervals around the perimeter of the excavated area, each measuring 1m in width (Figure 1). Sections one to five were recorded along the southeast facing section of the excavated area. These sections were the most important as, owing to the slope of the land, the deposits along this edge were deeper than those across the rest of the site.
- 2.1.3 In addition, one sample section was recorded along the northeast facing section (section 6) and one was recorded along the southwest facing section (section 7).
- 2.1.4 Due to the shallow nature of the ground towards the southeast of the development area (<10cm) no sample sections were recorded along the northwest facing section.

- 2.1.5 The archaeological recording techniques conformed to the best industry standards. All archaeological deposits were recorded using a single context continuous numbering system and are summarised in Appendix III. All sections were drawing at a scale of 1:10 and were photographed in digital at 14mp with suitable scales. The investigations were tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid using an EMLID Reach RS GNSS/ Glonass (GPS) Receiver and data logger with a 10-20mm tolerance.
- 2.1.6 The Watching Brief was carried out to the standards of the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief (published 2014)*.

3 Results

- 3.1.1 Southeast facing section (Figures 1-6, Plates 1-5)
- 3.1.2 The Southeast facing section of the excavated area measured 40.89m in length. Five 1m wide sample sections (Sections 1-5) were cleaned and recorded revealing relatively uniform deposits across the length of the section with no archaeological features identified.
- 3.1.3 Topsoil (001) was a dark brown silty clay, medium compaction, with rare – occasional angular and sub-angular fragments of limestone of varying sizes that measured 10-36cm in depth. This overlay subsoil (002) which was a mid brown silty clay, medium –high compaction, with occasional angular and sub-angular fragments of limestone of varying sizes with a depth of 1.5-15cm. This in turn overlay a natural geological deposit (003) which was a mid-yellowish brown silty clay of high compaction with frequent angular and sub-angular fragments of limestone and recorded in section to a depth of 40cm.
- 3.1.4 Northeast facing section (Figures 1 & 7, Plate 6)
- 3.1.5 The northeast facing section of the excavated area measured 62.52m in length. One 1m wide sample section (Section 6) was cleaned and recorded revealing deposits in line with those observed in the previous section. No archaeological features were identified.
- 3.1.6 Topsoil (001) was a dark brown silty clay, medium compaction, with rare – occasional angular and sub-angular fragments of limestone of varying sizes that measured 28-33cm in depth. This overlay subsoil (002) which was a mid brown silty clay, medium –high compaction, with occasional angular and sub-angular fragments of limestone of varying sizes with a depth of 20-21cm. This in turn overlay a natural geological deposit (003) which was a mid-yellowish brown silty clay of high compaction with frequent angular and sub-angular fragments of limestone and recorded in section to a depth of 2cm.

3.1.7 Southwest facing section (Figures 1 & 8; Plate 7)

3.1.8 The southwest facing section of the excavated area measured 60.88m in length. One 1m wide sample section (Section 7) was cleaned and recorded revealing deposits in line with those observed in previous sections. No archaeological features were identified.

3.1.9 Topsoil (001) was a dark brown silty clay, medium compaction, with rare – occasional angular and sub-angular fragments of limestone of varying sizes that measured 17-25cm in depth. This overlay subsoil (002) which was a mid brown silty clay, medium –high compaction, with occasional angular and sub-angular fragments of limestone of varying sizes with an excavated depth of 3.5-5cm. Section 7 however, was situated at a point where the ground level drops, and (003) was therefore not recorded within this section because it had not been reached.

3.1.10 Northwest facing section (Figure 1)

3.1.11 The northwest facing section of the excavated area measured 47.20m in length. The sloping topography of the site meant that this section was very shallow (<10cm) and as a result no sample sections were recorded for this section.

4 Conclusion

4.1.1 No archaeological features or finds were identified in any of the exposed sections of the excavated area.

4.1.2 It was initially expected that deposits of demolition material derived from the construction of the B4265 nearby would be encountered within the exposed sections of the excavated area. This expectation was based on the spreads of fragmentary limestone observed towards the surface in parts of the area which did appear consistent with demolition rubble (Plates 8 and 9). However, no such material was evident in any of the recorded sections.

5 Bibliography

AECOM 2017a, '*St Athan Northern Access Road, Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment*'.

AECOM 2017b, '*St Athan Northern Access Road, Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Strip Map Record and Sample Excavation*'.

CIfA, 2008 (revised 2014), '*Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*'. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

Entec UK Limited 2009, '*Defence Technical College and Aerospace Business Park – St Athan Environmental Statement*'.

RCAHMW. 1982, *Glamorgan: Medieval Non-Defensive Secular Monuments*. Royal Commission of Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales.

Other sources

British Geological Survey 'Geology of Britain' Viewer (Accessed 09/10/19)

Cadw - Cof Cymru (Accessed 09/10/19)

6 Appendices

6.1 Appendix I: Figures

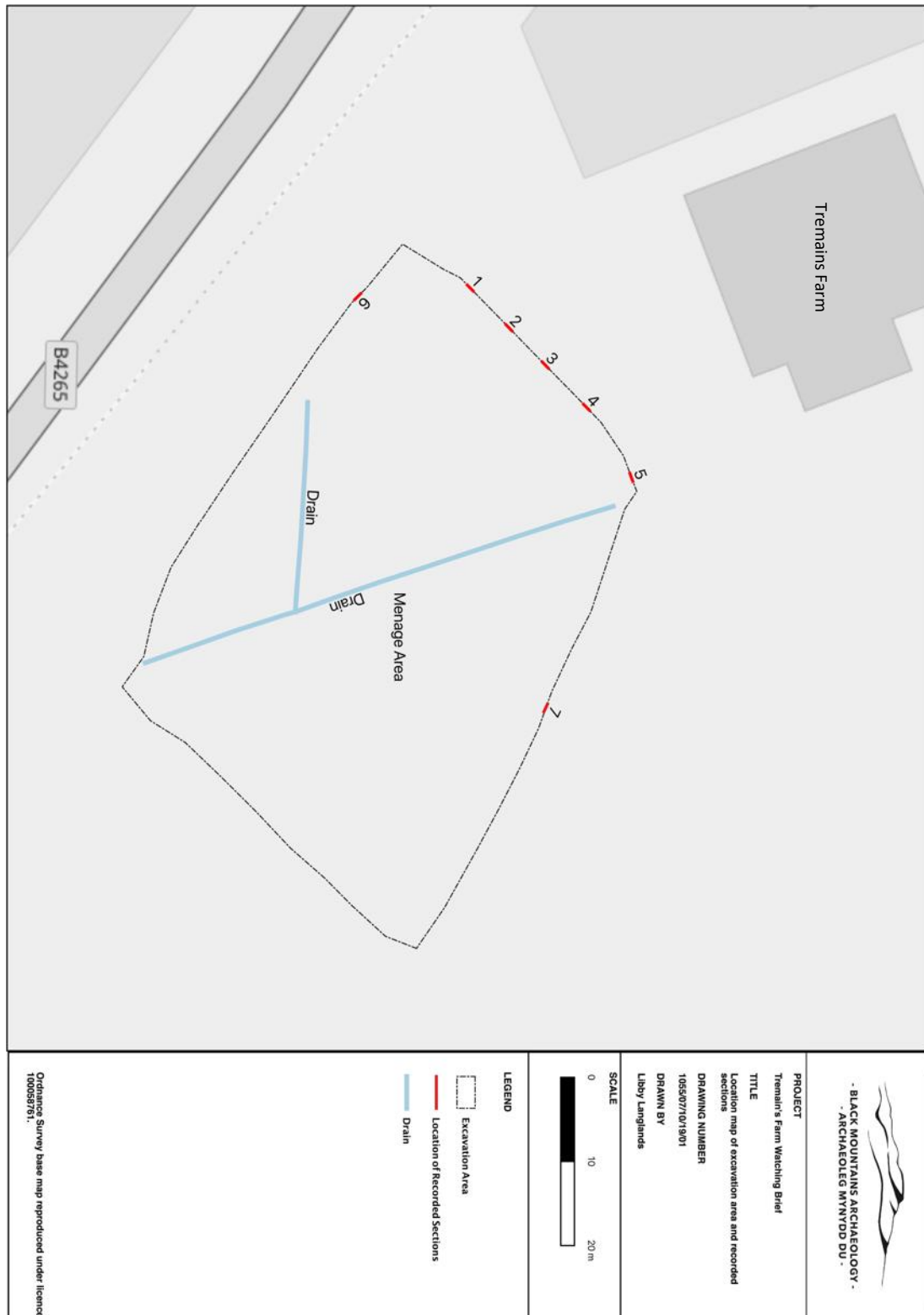


Figure 1: Location map of excavation area and recorded sample sections at Tremains Farm

Section 1, SE facing

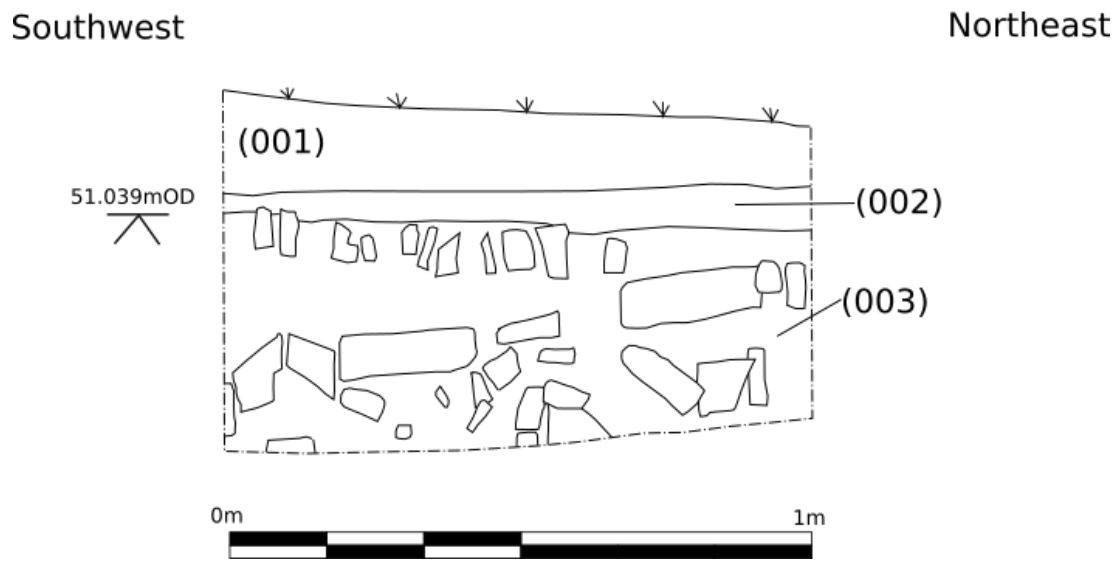


Figure 2: Section 1, NE facing

Section 2, SE facing

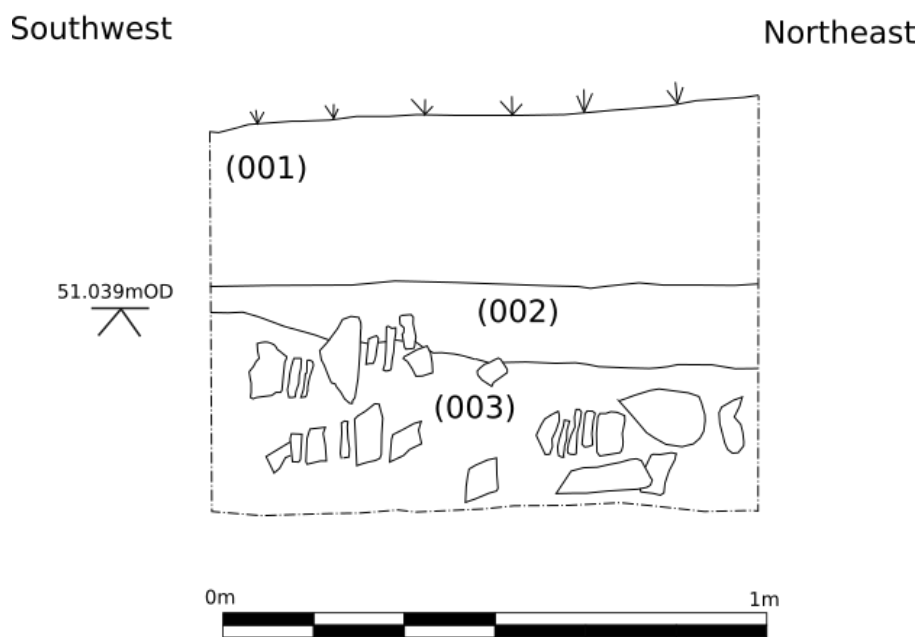


Figure 3: Section 2, SE facing

Section 3, SE facing

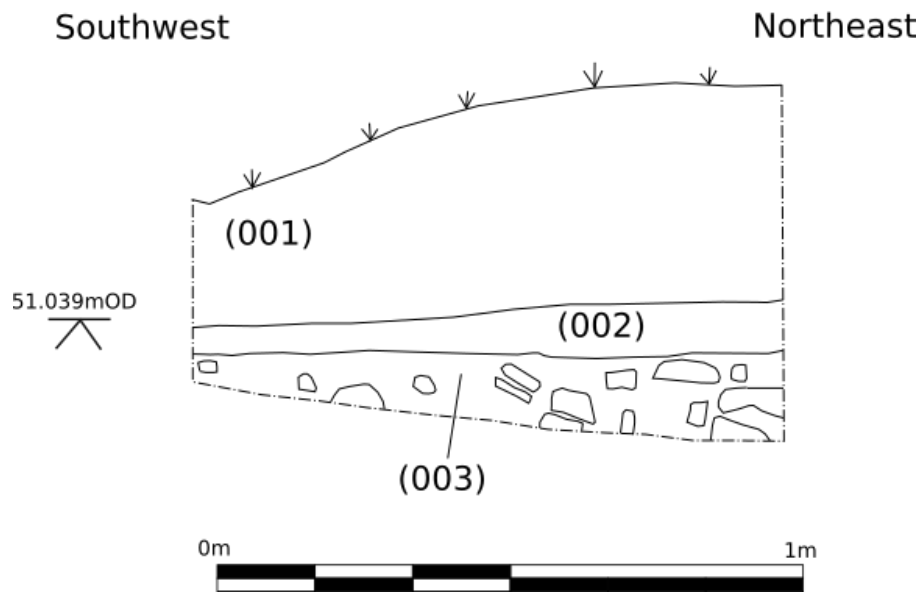


Figure 4: Section 3, SE facing

Section 4, NE facing

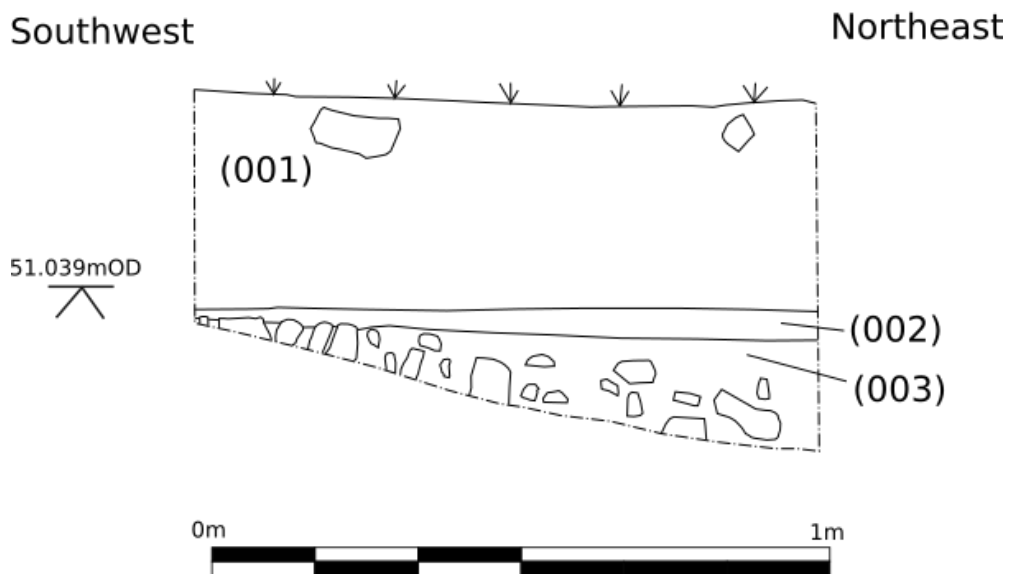
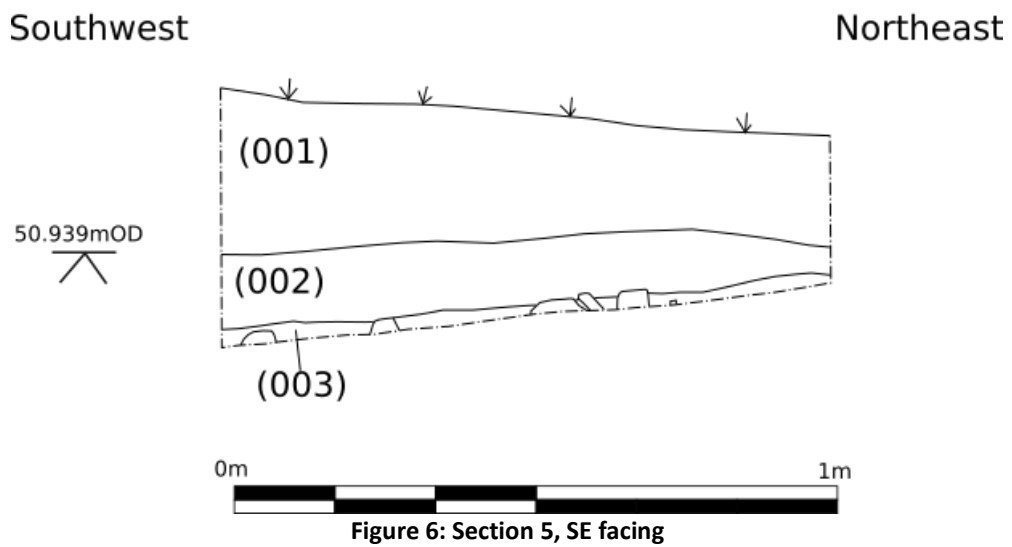
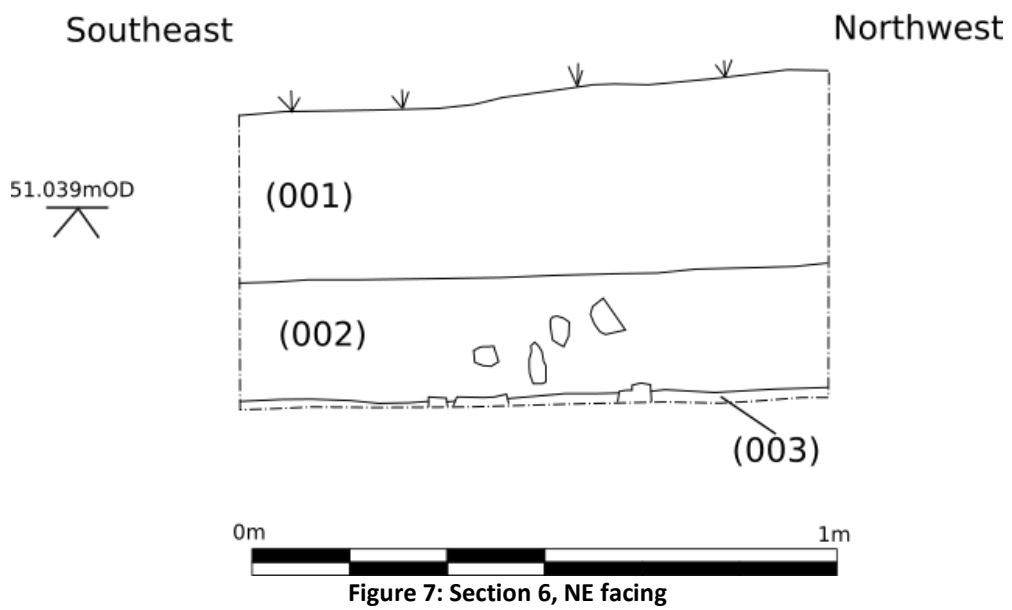


Figure 5: Section 4, SE facing

Section 5, SE facing



Section 6, NE facing



Section 7, SW facing

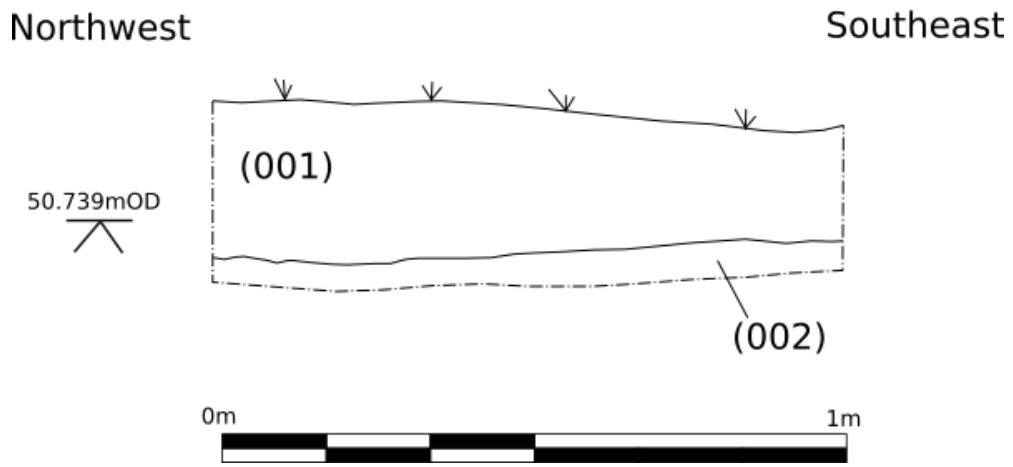


Figure 8: Section 7, SW facing

6.2 Appendix II: Plates



Plate 1: Section 1 (Southeast facing). Scale – 1m in 0.5m sections.



Plate 2: Section 2 (southeast facing). Scale – 1m in 0.5m sections.



Plate 3: Section 3 (southeast facing). Scale – 1m in 0.5m sections.



Plate 4: Section 4 (southeast facing). Scale – 1m in 0.5m sections.



Plate 5: Section 5 (southeast facing). Scale – 1m in 0.5m sections.



Plate 6: Section 6 (northeast facing). Scale – 1m in 0.5m sections.



Plate 7: Section 7 (southwest facing). Scale – 1m in 0.5m sections.



Plate 8: Sample limestone rubble from within demolition deposit (003). Scale – 1m in 0.5m sections.



Plate 9: Sample limestone rubble from within demolition deposit (003). Scale – 1m in 0.5m sections.



Plate 10: View of northwestern section of development area. No scale.



Plate 11: View of Bedford Castle (north facing). No scale.

6.3 Appendix III: Context Inventory

Context	Type	Depth	Description	Period
001	Topsoil	(Section 1) 0-10cm	Dark brown silty clay, medium compaction, with rare – occasional angular and sub-angular fragments of limestone of varying sizes.	n/a
002	Subsoil	10-17cm	Mid brown silty clay, medium –high compaction, with occasional angular and sub-angular fragments of limestone of varying sizes	n/a
003	Natural Deposit	17-49cm	Frequent angular and sub-angular fragments of limestone within a matrix of mid-yellowish brown silty clay of high compaction.	n/a

6.4 Appendix IV: Acknowledgements and Copyright

- 6.4.1 The project was managed by Richard Lewis BA MCIfA. The fieldwork was undertaken by Rhys Morgan BA MPhil. The report and illustrations were prepared by Rhys Morgan. The author would like to thank Paul Lindsay for his help and support during the project.
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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.

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