


**Former Garden Centre
Llangan
Vale of Glamorgan**

Archaeological Evaluation



for
WYG
on behalf of

Winchester Development Company

CA Project: 3874
CA Report: 12183

July 2012

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Vale of Glamorgan**

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CA Project: 3874
CA Report: 12183

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Former Garden Centre
Location: Llangan, Vale of Glamorgan
NGR: SS 96970 77915
Type: Evaluation
Date: 12-15 July 2012
Location of Archive: To be deposited with the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales
Site Code: LLL 12

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in July 2012 at the request of WYG on behalf of Winchester Development Company at the Former Garden Centre, Llangan. Ten trenches were excavated.

No archaeological features or deposits either positive or negative were recorded, and no artefacts were noted in the excavated soils.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In July 2012 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for WYG on behalf of Winchester Development Company at the Former Garden Centre, Llangan, Vale of Glamorgan (centred on NGR: SS 9697 7791; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application for the construction of 40 houses and their infrastructure.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the requirements of Neil Maylan, Archaeological Planning Officer, Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust, the archaeological advisors to the Vale of Glamorgan Council, and with a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by WYG (2012) and approved by Neil Maylan. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2008), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006). It was monitored by Mr Maylan, including a site visit on 12 July 2012.

The site

- 1.3 The site is located to the east of Llangan, and adjacent to St Mary Hill Rd (Fig. 2). To the north and south it is bounded by gardens of houses, to the west by agricultural land and to the east by St Mary Hill Rd. The site lies on ground sloping gently to the south-west, falling from 74m AOD to 69m AOD.
- 1.4 The site has an area of 2.17ha and comprised a tarmaced parking area, buildings and greenhouses, former bedding areas and gravelled surfaces. At the time of the evaluation much of the site was heavily overgrown with brambles and self seeded plants, and rows and clumps of mature trees were present.
- 1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area is complex, with many surface faults mapped. One such fault runs north-south through the site with Jurassic limestones to its west and Carboniferous limestones to its east. No superficial deposits are mapped (BGS 1989). The encountered geology was of banded limestone and clay, which could have dated to either era.

Archaeological background

1.6 A data search of 1km around the site was undertaken for the WSI, and the following paragraph summarises this. A leaf arrowhead and a bronze axe and chisel show the area was at least visited during the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods. A possible ploughed out Bronze Age barrow is recorded in the area studied. A burial to the south of the site is assumed to be Roman or early medieval and a group of burials to the north are likely to be early medieval, with the latest believed to be a Viking burial of the 9th or 10th centuries in date. Farms and settlements in the area are considered to be of a likely medieval origin, although only one is recorded as definitely so. Early mapping shows the site to have been in agricultural use. On the 1972 map the garden centre was shown.

Archaeological objectives

1.7 The overall objectives of the evaluation were to establish the character, quality, date and extent of any archaeological remains or deposits surviving within the site. This information will assist the Vale of Glamorgan Council in making an informed judgement on the significance of the archaeological resource, and the likely impact upon it of the proposed development. Specific objectives were to:

- Assess the site for the presence of burials or cremation inhumations
- Identify archaeological features and deposits of interest
- Excavate and record identified archaeological features and deposits to a level to enable their significance and extent to be identified
- Identify areas where significant archaeological potential remains and areas where the archaeological potential is considered to be non-significant.

Methodology

1.8.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of ten 20m long trenches, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Trenches were positioned to give a broad coverage of the site, and their alignments were varied to maximise the potential of intersecting linear features. As no previous archaeological work had been undertaken

none of the trenches were targeted on archaeological features. With the approval of Neil Maylan and to avoid mature trees Trenches 1 to 6 were moved as follows:

- Trench 1 was moved 16m to the south-west
- The eastern end of Trench 2 was moved 3m to the south
- Trench 3 was moved 4m to the east
- Trench 4 was moved 3m north
- Trench 5 was rotated clockwise through c. 80° around its south-eastern end
- Trench 6 was moved 7m to the east

Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using a Leica 1200 series SmartRover GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual* (2009).

- 1.9 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.10 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* (2003) but no deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation* (2010).
- 1.11 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the site will be deposited with the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-6)

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendix A.
- 2.2 No archaeological feature, deposit or artefact was present in any of the trenches. In most trenches hard, roughly horizontally bedded limestone and yellowish brown clay were encountered between 0.4m to 0.5m below ground level (BGL) and were overlain by a greyish brown clay subsoil to c. 0.2m BGL. Topsoil was a greyish brown silty clay or clay loam. In Trenches 5 and 6 the natural geology was a yellowish brown clay with areas of reddish brown clay. A gravel surface had been laid in the area of Trench 8, and here geology was encountered at 0.18m BGL. Inspection of the subsoil gave no indication that it had formed as the result of ploughing or whether its darkening had been caused by worm and root action.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The lack of archaeological remains, either as soils or artefacts, may be a consequence of the hard rock encountered across most of the evaluated area. It is likely that only by prising whole slabs of limestone could any impression be made on that very durable material. While quarrying can be envisioned (and several quarries are mapped in the area) it seems probable that any more domestic or agricultural practice would avoid having to delve deeply into the ground.
- 3.2 The evaluation has not been able to cast light on the burials recorded to the south and north of the site.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Jamie Wright, assisted by Paolo Clemente and Peter James. The report was written by Jamie Wright. The illustrations were prepared by Ian Atkins. The archive has been compiled by Jamie Wright, and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Roland Smith.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1989 Sheet 262, Bridgend; Solid and Drift

WYG Planning & Environment 2012 *Winchester Development Company, Former Garden Centre, Llangan: Evaluation Excavation Project Design*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Greyish brown silty clay topsoil			0.09	Modern
101	Layer	Greyish brown silty clay with occasional stones subsoil			0.19	Modern
102	Layer	Brown sandy clay between limestone bedrock			>0.28	

Trench 2

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
200	Layer	Topsoil			0.3	
201	Layer	Subsoil			0.47	
202	Layer	Natural			>0.77	

Trench 3

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
300	Layer	Topsoil			0.12	
301	Layer	Gravel surface			0.14	
302	Layer	Made ground			0.3	
303	Layer	Natural			>0.56	
304	Cut	Land drain				Modern
305	Fill	Fill of 304				Modern

Trench 4

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
400	Layer	Topsoil			0.24	
401	Layer	Subsoil			0.41	
402	Layer	Natural			>0.65	
403	Cut	Land drain				Modern
404	Cut	Fill of 403				Modern
405	Layer	Gravelly surface in middle of trench			0.42	Modern

Trench 5

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
500	Layer	Topsoil			0.13	
501	Layer	Subsoil			0.22	
202	Layer	Natural			>0.35	

Trench 6

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
600	Layer	Topsoil			0.18	
601	Layer	Subsoil			0.23	
602	Layer	Natural			>0.41	

Trench 7

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
700	Layer	Topsoil			0.28	
701	Layer	Subsoil			0.1	
702	Layer	Natural			>0.38	

Trench 8

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
800	Layer	Gravel surface			0.04	Modern
801	Layer	Hardcore			0.14	Modern
802	Layer	Natural			>0.18	

Trench 9

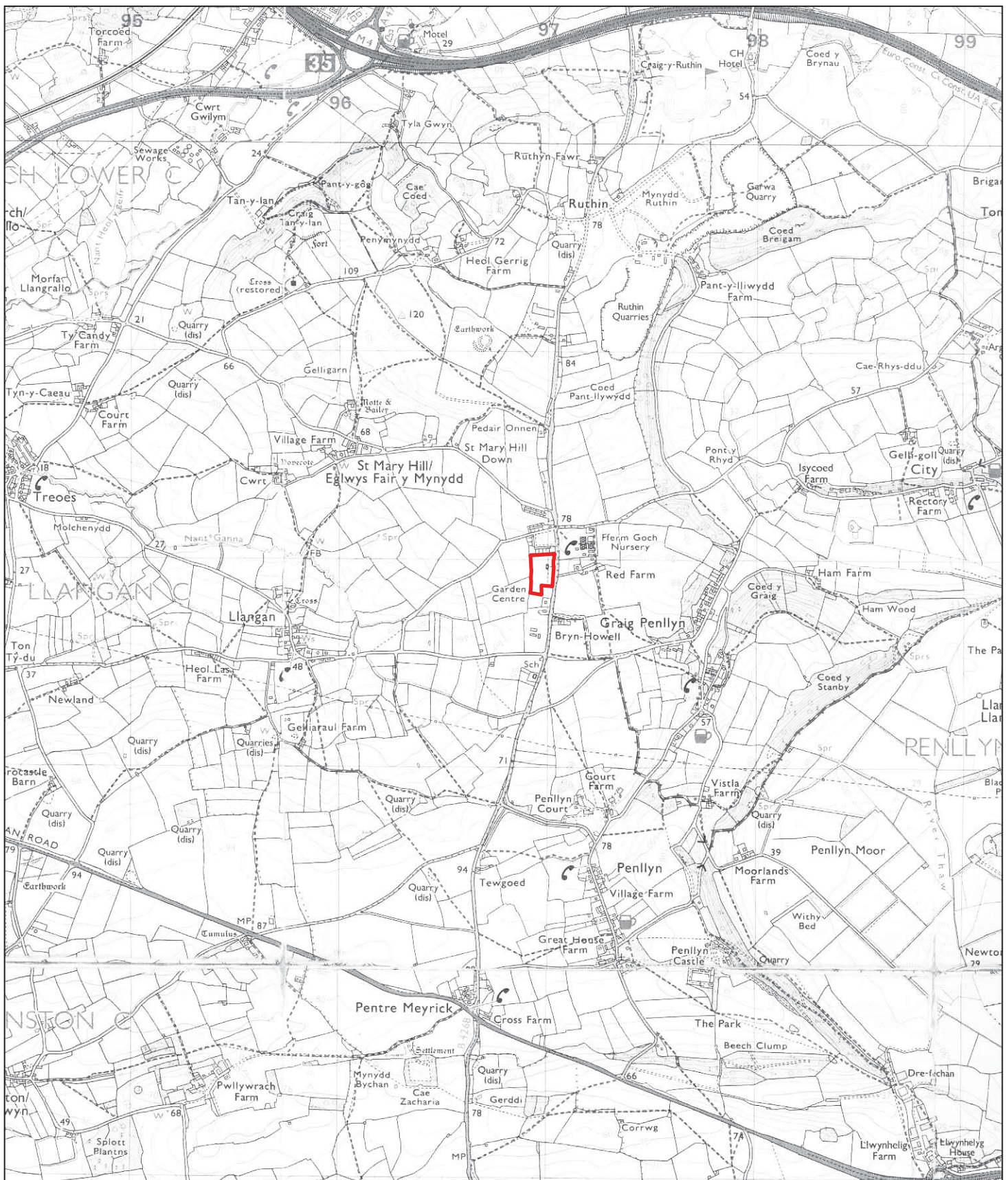
No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
900	Layer	Topsoil			0.24	
901	Layer	Subsoil			0.18	
902	Layer	Natural			>0.42	
903	Layer	Gravel surface			0.26	Modern

Trench 10

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1000	Layer	Topsoil			0.24	
1001	Layer	Subsoil			0.19	
1002	Layer	Natural			>0.43	

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Former Garden Centre, Llangan, Glamorganshire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in July 2012 at the request of WYG on behalf of Winchester Development Company at the Former Garden Centre, Llangan. Ten trenches were excavated. No archaeological features or deposits either positive or negative were recorded, and no artefacts were noted in the excavated soils.	
Project dates	10-14 July 2012	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Former Garden Centre, Llangan, Glamorganshire	
Study area	2.17ha	
Site co-ordinates	SS 9697 7791	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust	
Project Design (WSI) originator	WYG	
Project Manager	Roland Smith	
Project Supervisor	Jamie Wright	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content
Physical		None
Paper	Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales	Trench sheets, Photo sheets etc
Digital	Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales	Survey data, digital photos etc
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2012 <i>Former Garden Centre, Llangan, Glamorganshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 12183		



0 1km



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PROJECT TITLE

Former Garden Centre, Llangan
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FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

Reproduced from the 1998 Ordnance Survey Explorer map with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright Cotswold Archaeology Ltd 100002109

PROJECT NO. 3874 DATE 17-07-2012
 DRAWN BY IA REVISION 00
 APPROVED BY PJM SCALE@A4 1:25,000

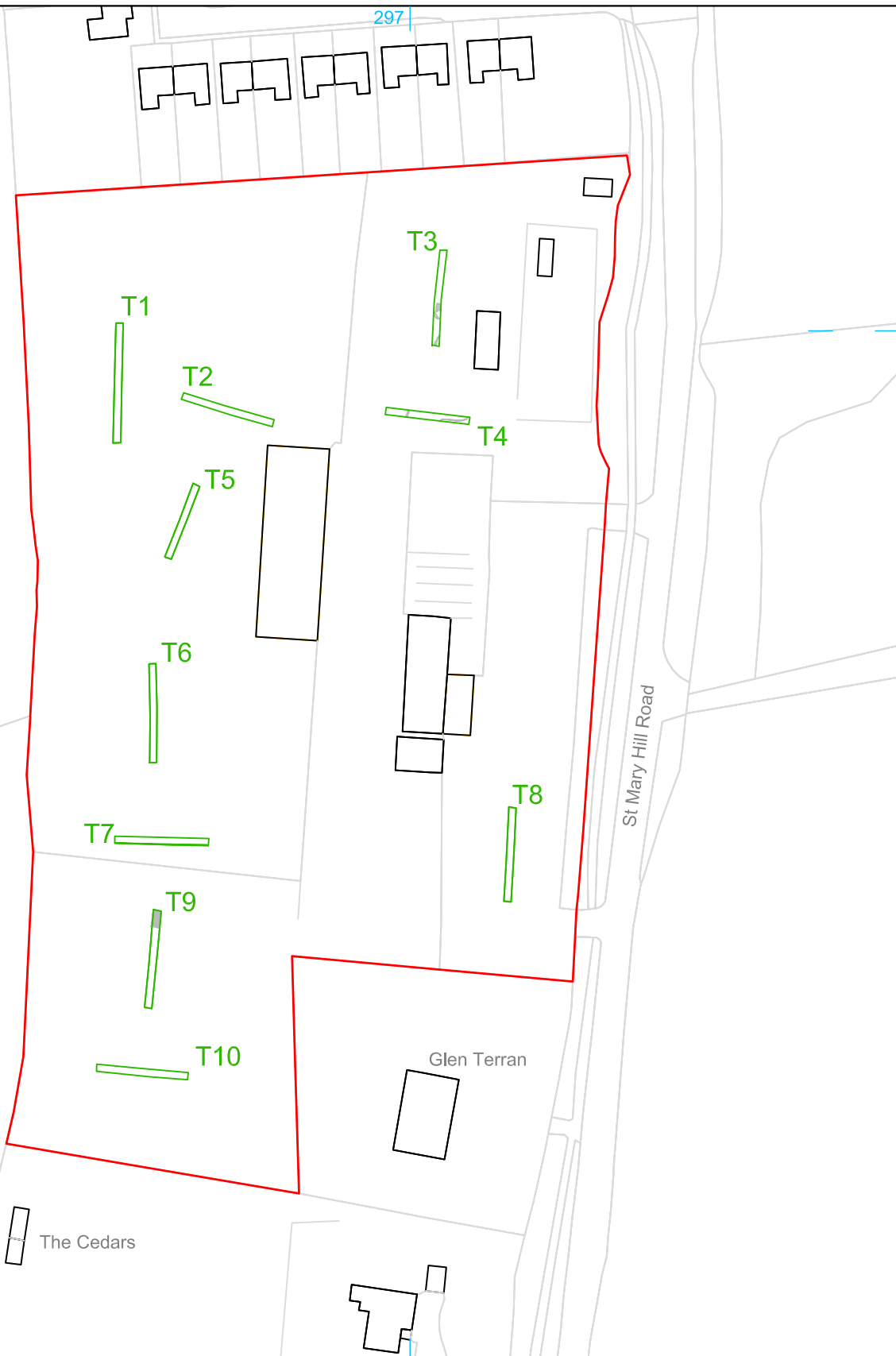
FIGURE NO.

1

178

297

SS



- site
- evaluation trench
- modern



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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan



PROJECT NO.	3874	DATE	17-07-2012	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	JA	REVISION	00	2
APPROVED BY	PJM	SCALE@A4	1:1250	

P:\3874 Former Garden Centre Llangan Wales (EVA)\Illustration\Drafts\3874 Former Garden Centre Llangan Fig 2.dwg



3



4

3. Trench 5 looking north east

4. Trench 7 looking west



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FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

PROJECT NO. 3874 DATE 17-07-2012
 DRAWN BY IA REVISION 00
 APPROVED BY PJM SCALE@A4 N/A

FIGURE NO.

3 & 4



5

5. Trench 9 looking south



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FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

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FIGURE NO.

5



6

6. Trench 10 looking south



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FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

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FIGURE NO.

6