

**Mynydd Brombil Meteorological Mast
Margam,
Neath Port Talbot**

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
REG Windpower Ltd


CA Project: 4587
CA Report: 14013

June 2014

Mynydd Brombil Meteorological Mast Margam, Neath Port Talbot

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 4587
CA Report: 14013

prepared by	Luke Brannlund, Supervisor Designate and Peter Busby Project Supervisor
date	19 June 2014
checked by	Ian Barnes, Project Manager
date	19 June 2014
approved by	Laurent Coleman, Principal Fieldwork Manager
signed	
date	June 2014
issue	01

This report is confidential to the client. Cotswold Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability to any third party to whom this report, or any part of it, is made known. Any such party relies upon this report entirely at their own risk. No part of this report may be reproduced by any means without permission.

© Cotswold Archaeology

Cirencester Building 11 Kemble Enterprise Park Kemble, Cirencester Gloucestershire, GL7 6BQ t. 01285 771022 f. 01285 771033	Milton Keynes Unit 4 Cromwell Business Centre Howard Way, Newport Pagnell MK16 9QS t. 01908 218320	Andover Stanley House Walworth Road Andover, Hampshire SP10 5LH t. 01264 347630
e. enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk		

CONTENTS

SUMMARY	2
1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
<i>The site</i>	3
<i>Archaeological background</i>	3
<i>Methodology</i>	4
2. RESULTS (FIG 2)	5
3. DISCUSSION.....	5
4. CA PROJECT TEAM.....	5
5. REFERENCES.....	6
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	7

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)

Fig. 2 The site, showing location of groundworks (1:1,250).



SUMMARY

Project Name: Mynydd Brombil Meteorological Mast
Location: Margam, Neath, Port Talbot
NGR: SS 7901 8856
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 5 November 2013
Planning Reference: Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, Ref: P2012/0882
Location of Archive: To be deposited with RCAHMMW
Site Code: MBN 13

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the erection of a meteorological mast at Mynydd Brombil, Margam, Neath Port Talbot.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefacts were recovered.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In November 2013 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for REG Windpower Ltd at Mynydd Brombil, Margam, Neath Port Talbot (centred on NGR: SS 7901 8856; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil condition No. 2 attached to a planning consent for a meteorological mast (Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (NPTCBC), Planning Ref: P2012/0882). The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the development.

1.2 The watching brief was carried following a consultation Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust Curatorial Division (GGAT), the archaeological advisors to NPTCBC and in accordance with a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2013), approved by NPTCBC on the advice of GGAT. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2009), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006).

The site

1.3 The proposed development site encloses an area of approximately 0.5ha, set within upland plateau pastoral land. The site lies at approximately 240m AOD and is level for a c.500m radius, before sloping down steeply in all directions.

1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Rhondda Member – Sandstone of the Carboniferous Period (BGS 2013).

Archaeological background

1.5 A cultural heritage chapter of an Environmental Statement was prepared by CA in 2012 (CA 2012). The following is a summary of that document.

Prehistoric

1.6 The Scheduled Monument (Glamorgan GM160) known as Ergyd Isaf comprises two Bronze Age round barrows, one of which has been robbed lies approximately 400m to the north-east of the site (RCAHMW 2014 NPRN 305629 and 305630). A possible small enclosure possibly dating to the Iron Age is recorded 1.1km to the north-west of the site (RCAHMW 2014 NPRN 24326).

Medieval

- 1.7 A group of seven pillow mounds lie approximately 450m to the south-west of the site. The pillow mounds are considered likely to be medieval in origin. An additional pillow mound lies approximately 300m to the south-east of the site. The mound shows the indentation of an antiquarian investigation in the mid-19th century. Two possible earthworks were also identified approximately 150m to the south of the site (CA 2012).

Post medieval

- 1.8 A post medieval quarry pit was identified 400m to the west of the site along with a small pond. A drainage ditch with a small hollow interpreted as a quarry scar was recorded 450m to the north of the site (CA 2012).

Archaeological objectives

- 1.9 The objectives of the archaeological works were:
- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks;
 - at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

Methodology

- 1.10 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2013). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks (Fig. 2).
- 1.11 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.12 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with the RCAHMW.



2. RESULTS (FIG 2)

- 2.1 In total six trenches for the foundations of the mast and its ancillary parts were excavated in a cross pattern (Fig. 2).
- 2.2 The natural geological substrate consisting of sandstone (102, 202, 302, 402, 502 and 602) was revealed in all trenches at a typical depth of 0.4m below present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain by subsoil (101, 201, 301, 401, 501 and 601) typically 0.2m in thickness, which was in turn sealed by 0.2m of topsoil (100, 200, 300, 400, 500 and 600).
- 2.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material was recovered.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 While the archaeological potential of the application area is acknowledged (see archaeological background above), the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. Given the limited size of the interventions it is not possible to propose any robust archaeological conclusions, and it remains possible that archaeological remains exist in the area

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Luke Brannlund. The report was written by Luke Brannlund and Peter Busby. The illustrations were prepared by Lorna Grey. The archive has been compiled by Jon Hart, and prepared for deposition by Jon Hart. The project was managed for CA by Ian Barnes.



5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2013 *Geology of Britain Viewer* http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 18 October 2013

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2012 *Mynydd Brombil Wind Farm: Chapter 8 Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Assessment*.

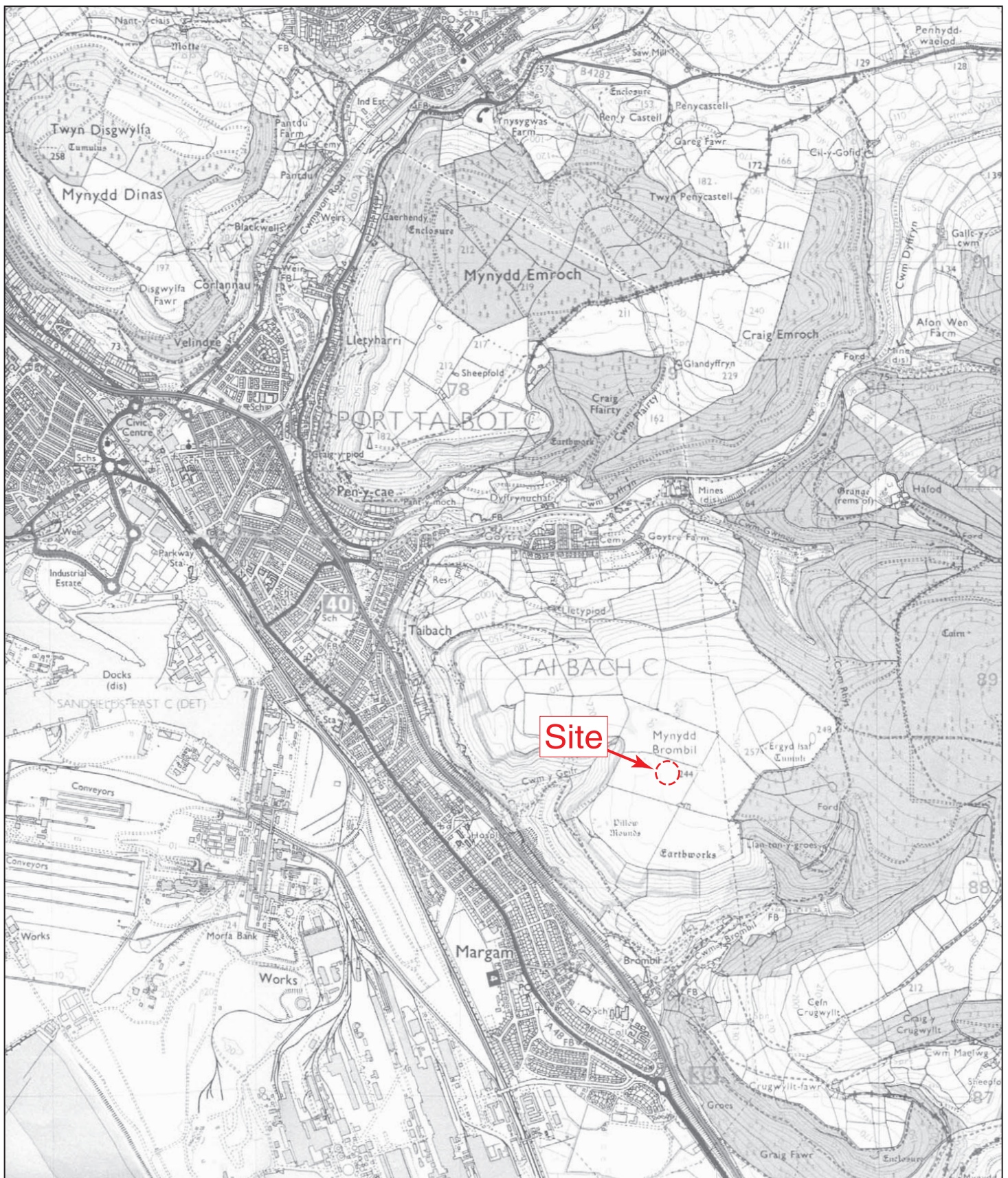
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013 *Mynydd Brombil Meteorological Mast, Margam, Neath Port Talbot, Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

RCAHMW (Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales) 2013 Coflein database online resource at <http://map.coflein.gov.uk/> accessed 19 June 2014



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	Depth/thickness (m)
100	100	Layer	topsoil	Dark brown silt	0.2
100	101	Layer	subsoil	Mid brown silt sand	0.2
100	102	Layer	natural	Yellow-grey sandstone	N/A
200	200	Layer	topsoil	Dark brown silt	0.2
200	201	Layer	subsoil	Mid brown silt sand	0.1
200	202	Layer	natural	Yellow-grey sand with sandstone	N/A
300	300	Layer	topsoil	Dark brown silt	0.2
300	301	Layer	subsoil	Mid brown silt sand	0.2
300	302	Layer	natural	Yellow-grey sandstone	N/A
400	400	Layer	topsoil	Dark brown silt	0.1
400	401	Layer	subsoil	Mid brown silt sand	0.1
400	402	Layer	natural	Yellow-grey sand with sandstone	N/A
500	500	Layer	topsoil	Dark brown silt	0.2
500	501	Layer	subsoil	Mid brown silt sand	0.3
500	502	Layer	natural	Yellow-grey sandstone	N/A
600	600	Layer	topsoil	Dark brown silt	0.2
600	601	Layer	subsoil	Mid brown silt sand	0.2
600	602	Layer	natural	Yellow-grey sand with sandstone	N/A



Site



Cirencester 01285 771022
 Milton Keynes 01908 218320
 Andover 01264 347630
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Mynydd Brombil meteorological mast
 Margam, Neath & Port Talbot

FIGURE TITLE

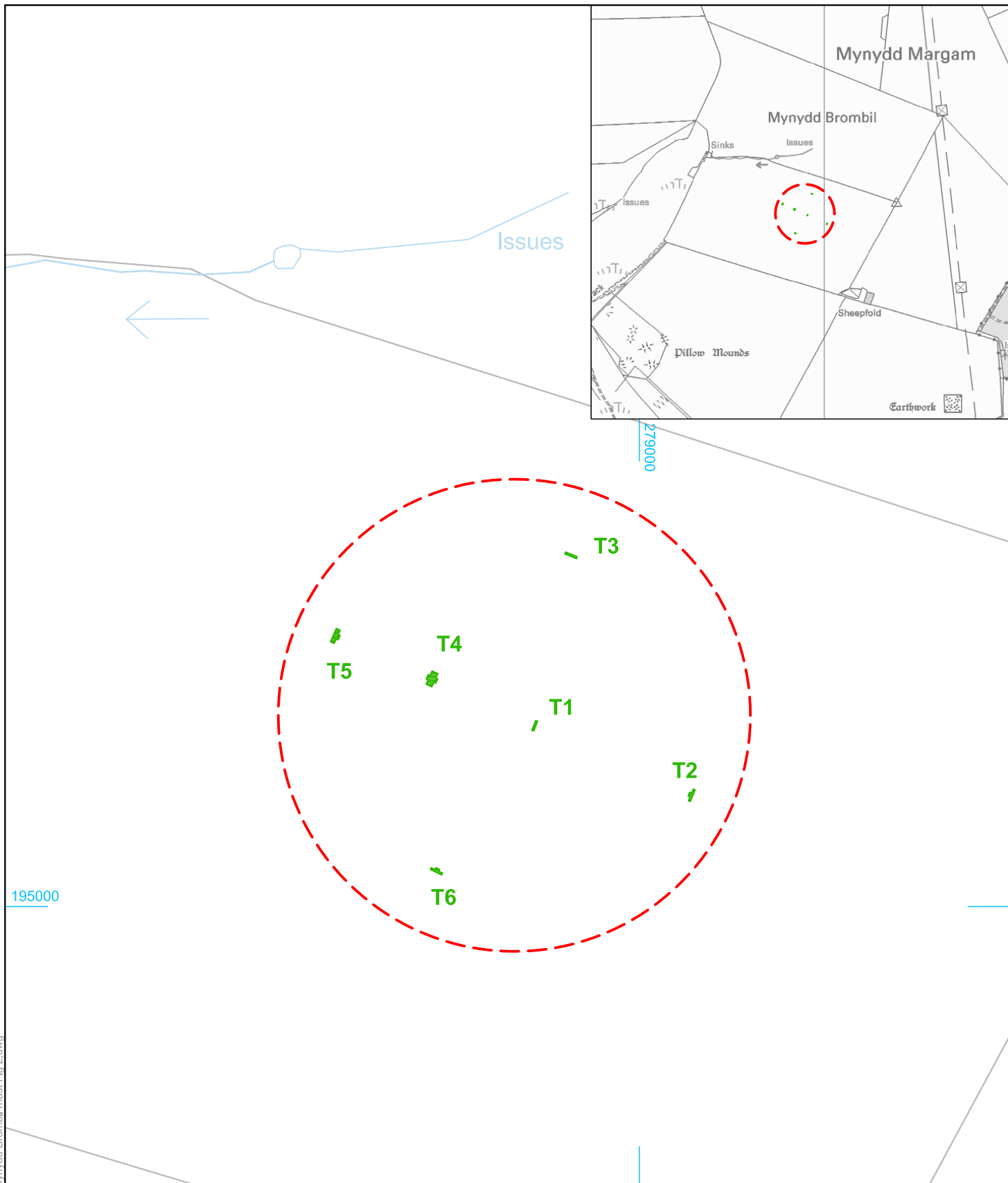
Site location plan

Reproduced from the 2002 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. 4587 DATE 13-11-2013
 DRAWN BY LG REVISION 00
 APPROVED BY LM SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1



- - - site area
- - - area of observed groundworks



Cirencester 01285 771022
 Milton Keynes 01908 218320
 Andover 01264 347630
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 Mynydd Brombil meteorological mast
 Margam, Neath & Port Talbot

FIGURE TITLE
 The site, showing location of
 groundworks

PROJECT NO. 4587 DATE 13-11-2013
 DRAWN BY LG REVISION 00
 APPROVED BY LM SCALE@A4 1:1250

FIGURE NO.

2

