
Land at Tan y Coed: **Beaumaris, Anglesey**



Archaeological Assessment

GAT Project No. 2103

Report No. 838

November, 2009

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Beumaris, Anglesey

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Prepared for
Pledge Capital

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G2103 TAN Y COED, BEAUMARIS

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CONTENTS

	Page
Summary	
1. Introduction	3
2. Project brief and specification	3
3. Methods and Techniques	4
4. Archaeological Results	7
5. Summary of Archaeological Potential	12
6. Summary of Recommendations	13
7. Conclusions	13
8. Archive	14
9. References	14

FIGURES

Fig. 1 Site Location

Fig. 2 Location of study area (outlined in red), numbered features (black) and field numbers (blue). Extent of features 1 and 3 are shown in green. The probable location of site 6 is shown in purple. Sites noted on the Gwynedd HER with their PRN numbers are shown in green. Base map Ordnance Survey 1:10 000 sheet SH 57 NE. Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100020895

Fig. 3 Extract from the tithe map of Llanfihangel Din Silwy of 1842 showing the detached southern portion of the parish forming Tan y Coed Farm

Fig. 4 Extract from the Llaniestyn tithe map of 1840 with study area outlined in red

Fig. 5 Extract from a Cichle estate sale map of 1896 (UCNWB Sale catalogues 105) showing 'Lot 5' , the site of the Second World War Trenches (outlined in red).

Fig. 6 Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 25 inch map of 1889. Anglesey sheet XV.5 and 9. Study area outlined in red. Scale 1:5000

Fig. 7 Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 25 inch map of 1900. Anglesey sheet XV.5 and 9. Study area outlined in red. Scale 1:5000

Fig. 8 Map extract from Sale catalogue of Baron Hill estate outlying portions in 1920 (NLW Sale Catalogues Angl. 115). Tan y Coed farm is coloured green and numbered lot 28.

Fig. 9 Extract from RAF aerial photograph 106G/UK655 frame 3042 showing open trenches in the foreground (Feature 3) and Feature 1 outlined in red.

Fig. 10 A Postcard showing Kingsbridge Army Camp during the First World War

Fig. 11 A cartoon by Sapper Bernard Handley, stationed at Kinsbridge Camp, showing trench digging tools (Anglesey Archives XM 939).

Fig. 12 Development Proposal Plan (Ark Company Drawing)

PLATES

Plate 1 First World War Access trench, looking towards the front line.

Plate 2 General view of improved fields to the east of Tan y Coed, the proposed location of most of the log cabin development.

Plate 3 Rising ground to the north-east of Tan y Coed, showing possible evidence of terracing, or strip lynchets agriculture.

Plate 4 19th century hedgerow containing hawthorn, bilberry and sloe.

Plate 5 Tan y Coed farmhouse from the east

TAN Y COED, BEAUMARIS (G2103)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

SUMMARY

An archaeological assessment has been carried out on land at Tan y Coed, Beaumaris. The area consists of a mixture of woodland, improved farmland and pasture. No previously unidentified pre-modern archaeological sites were identified in the study area, however it was found to be a landscape of national importance as a military training area in the 20th century. It is recommended that a programme of field evaluation be carried out to ascertain the nature and presence of any surviving buried archaeology. It is also recommended that the development is sited to avoid impact on the woodland to the south east of Tan y Coed.

1 INTRODUCTION

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust has been asked by *Pledge Capital* to carry out an archaeological assessment in advance of a proposed lodge development, located at Tan y Coed, Beaumaris, Ynys Môn (NGR **SH59517908**). The area is one of known military training activity, woodland and managed farmland. The study area (Fig. 1) surrounds Tan y Coed farm, and the main development area is located to the south and east of the farmhouse.

1.1 Acknowledgements

Medwyn Parry of the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments for Wales (RCAHMW) is thanked for his help and advice about the morphology of the 20th century training entrenchments noted during the course of this project. Nina Steele of the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record (HER) and Ashley Batten of the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service (GAPS) are thanked for all their help and assistance in providing information about the project. Terry Williams is thanked for reading through this report and providing the benefit of his widespread knowledge about the area.

2 DESIGN BRIEF AND SPECIFICATION

2.1 Project Background

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust has been asked by *Pledge Capital* to carry out an archaeological assessment in advance of a proposed lodge development, located at Tan y Coed, Beaumaris, Ynys Môn (NGR **SH59517908**).

The proposed development comprises a c.23ha site of woodland, pasture and cultivated plots. The proposals include (based on client drawings **08/140/02** and **08/140/03**):

- plans to erect up to thirty-nine single and two-storey lodges;
- landscaping, including an access road feeding all proposed lodges (width: 3.6m);
- parking provisions for all lodges;
- proposed swimming lake with neighbouring ball court;
- improvements to existing farmstead, *Tan-y-Coed*, which will be altered to accommodate cottage conversions and a new stone wall and gardens.

It is proposed that current hedgerows are retained with existing gaps used wherever possible, and client drawing **08/140/03** divides the proposed development area into Phases 01 to 06.

Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services (GAPS; project reference no. **D1351**) has requested a pre-determination archaeological assessment in accordance with national planning guidance (*Planning Policy*

Guidance Wales 2002) and Welsh Office Circular 60/96 (*Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology*).

This report conforms to the guidelines specified in *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessment* (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1994, rev. 2001).

2.2 Desk-based Assessments

A desk-based assessment is defined as ‘a programme of assessment of the known or potential archaeological resource within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. It consists of a collation of existing written, graphic, photographic and electronic information in order to identify the likely character, extent, quality and worth of the known or potential archaeological resource in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate’. (*Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessment*, IFA 2001, 2).

The aims of the assessment as given in the specification are:

- to identify and record the cultural heritage within the defined study area;
- to evaluate the importance of what has been identified;
- to recommend ways in which impact upon the cultural heritage can be avoided or minimised.

To comply fully with the aims expressed above it can be necessary to undertake a programme of Field Evaluation following the Desktop study and Field Visit. This is because some sites cannot be assessed by desktop or field visit alone, and additional fieldwork is therefore required. This typically takes the form of geophysical survey or trial excavation, although measured survey is also a possible option. A full programme of assessment and evaluation may therefore consist of:

- Desktop study
- Field walkover
- Initial report
- Field evaluation
- Draft report
- Final report

The phase of the project concerns the first three phases only, and recommendations will be made for any field evaluation required. GAPS however remains responsible for advising the Local Authority on the suitability of the work undertaken.

3 METHODS AND TECHNIQUES

3.1 Desk top study

The desktop study comprised the consultation of maps, documents, computer records, written records and reference works, which form part of the Historic Environment Record (HER), located at Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT), Bangor. The archives held by the Anglesey Record Office, Llangefni and Bangor University were also consulted. Information about listed buildings was consulted by means of the CARN (Core Archaeological Index), which is the online index of the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments, Wales. Relevant aerial photographs from the collection at the National Monuments Record (NMR), Aberystwyth were examined.

Sites, buildings and find spots listed in the GAT HER were identified within 500m of the study area were identified in order to give background information relevant to understanding the area, and these are listed in the appendix.

3.2 Field Search

The field search was undertaken on the 5th November 2009, when the area of the proposed development was examined. Notes were taken, sketches and measurements were taken of sites of potential archaeological interest and a photographic record was made. Conditions were reasonable for a site visit.

3.3 Report

The available information was synthesised to give a summary of the archaeological and historic background and of the assessment and recommendations, as set out below. The separate features, their evaluation and recommendations are listed separately, and a summary of the overall assessment of the area is given at the end. PRN refers to the individual Primary Reference Number given to each recorded site on the Gwynedd HER.

The criteria used for assessing the value of features was based upon those used by the Secretary of State for Wales when considering sites for protection as scheduled ancient monuments, as set out in the Welsh Office circular 60/96. The definitions of categories used for impact, field evaluation and mitigation are set out below.

3.3.1 Categories of importance

The following categories were used to define the importance of the archaeological resource.

Category A - Sites of National Importance.

Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings of grade II* and above, as well as those that would meet the requirements for scheduling (ancient monuments) or listing (buildings) or both.

Sites that are scheduled or listed have legal protection, and it is recommended that all Category A sites remain preserved and protected *in situ*.

Category B - Sites of regional or county importance.

Grade II listed buildings and sites which would not fulfil the criteria for scheduling or listing, but which are nevertheless of particular importance within the region.

Preservation *in situ* is the preferred option for Category B sites, but if damage or destruction cannot be avoided, appropriate detailed recording might be an acceptable alternative.

Category C - Sites of district or local importance.

Sites which are not of sufficient importance to justify a recommendation for preservation if threatened.

Category C sites nevertheless merit adequate recording in advance of damage or destruction.

Category D - Minor and damaged sites.

Sites that are of minor importance or are so badly damaged that too little remains to justify their inclusion in a higher category.

For Category D sites, rapid recording, either in advance of or during destruction, should be sufficient.

Category E - Sites needing further investigation.

Sites, the importance of which is as yet undetermined and which will require further work before they can be allocated to categories A - D are temporarily placed in this category, with specific recommendations for further evaluation. By the end of the assessment there should usually be no sites remaining in this category. In this case several areas of unknown potential have been allocated to this category. These require environmental sampling which should be carried out during the pipeline works.

3.3.2 Definition of Impact

The impact of the road development on each site was estimated. The impact is defined as *none, slight, unlikely, likely, significant, considerable or unknown* as follows:

None:

There is no construction impact on this particular site.

Slight:

This has generally been used where the impact is marginal and would not by the nature of the site cause irreversible damage to the remainder of the feature, *e.g.* part of a trackway or field bank.

Unlikely:

This category indicates sites that fall within the band of interest but are unlikely to be directly affected. This includes sites such as standing and occupied buildings at the margins of the band of interest.

Likely:

Sites towards the edges of the study area, which may not be directly affected, but are likely to be damaged in some way by the construction activity.

Significant:

The partial removal of a site affecting its overall integrity. Sites falling into this category may be linear features such as roads or tramways where the removal of part of the feature could make overall interpretation problematic.

Considerable:

The total removal of a feature or its partial removal which would effectively destroy the remainder of the site.

Unknown:

This is used when the location of the site is unknown, but thought to be in the vicinity

3.3.3 Definition of field evaluation techniques

Field evaluation is necessary to fully understand and assess most class E sites and to allow the evaluation of areas of land where there are no visible features but for which there is potential for sites to exist. Two principal techniques can be used for carrying out the evaluation: geophysical survey and trial trenching. Topographic survey may also be employed where sites are thought to survive as earthworks.

Geophysical survey most often involves the use of a magnetometer, which allows detection of some underground features, depending on their composition and the nature of the subsoil. Other forms of geophysical survey, including resistivity survey and ground penetrating radar might also be of use.

Trial trenching allows a representative sample of the development area to be investigated at depth. Trenches of appropriate size can also be excavated to evaluate category E sites. Trenching is typically carried out with trenches of between 20 to 30m length and 2m width. The topsoil is removed by machine and the resulting surface is cleaned by hand, recording features. Depending on the stratigraphy encountered the machine may be used to remove stratigraphy to deeper levels.

3.3.4 Definition of Mitigatory Recommendations

Below are the measures that may be recommended to mitigate the impact of the development on the archaeology.

None:

No impact so no requirement for mitigatory measures.

Detailed recording:

This requires a full photographic record and measured survey prior to commencement of works.

Archaeological excavation may also be required depending on the particular feature and the extent and effect of the impact.

Basic recording:

Requiring a photographic record and full description prior to commencement of works.

Strip, Map and Sample:

The technique of Strip, Map and Sample involves the examination of machine-stripped surfaces to identify archaeological remains. The stripping is undertaken under the supervision of an archaeologist. Stripping and removal of the overburden is undertaken in such a manner as to ensure damage does not take place to surfaces that have already been stripped, nor to archaeological surfaces that have not yet been revealed.

Stripping is undertaken in as careful a manner as possible, to allow for good identification of archaeological features. A small team of archaeologists will be responsible for subsequently further cleaning defined areas where necessary. Complex sites which cannot be avoided will need to be fully excavated.

Watching brief:

This 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.

Avoidance:

Features, which may be affected directly by the scheme, or during the construction, should be avoided. Occasionally a minor change to the proposed plan is recommended, but more usually it refers to the need for care to be taken during construction to avoid accidental damage to a feature. This is often best achieved by clearly marking features prior to the start of work.

Reinstatement:

The feature should be re-instated with archaeological advice and supervision.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Topographic description

Tan y Coed lies within a mixed landscape of woodland and open fields to the north of Llanfaes, Anglesey (NGR SH 5951 7908). Soils consist of stagnogleyic argillic brown earths of the flint association (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1980), overlying Ordovician and Silurian mudstones and shales (Smith and George 1961, 34-35).

To the west, centred on SH 59287892 is a heavily wooded area, containing a relict trench system. It consists of a few mature trees and scrub. A possible field bank defines the southern limits of the trench workings. The wooded area slopes away sharply south-eastwards beyond this point. To the north (SH 5934 7912) a platform like area is noted on the higher ground, above a gently undulating north-west to south-east slope, with one steep break of slope forming an escarpment. The area consists of semi-improved pasture and meadowland. The field boundaries consist mainly of modern post and rail fencing, although a drystone wall is noted forming the boundary with a conifer plantation to the east, suggesting an older boundary in this area. Disturbance to this area is not expected as part of the development proposals.

To the south of Tan y Coed an open area of land is bounded by a stream to its south. The area is very boggy and reedy, and was possibly a former farm pond. No evidence for early field boundaries has been noted in the small area of meadow to the north of the reed and marsh area.

East of Tan y Coed five fields of unequal size of improved grassland (numbered on Fig.2), covering an area of approximately 30ha, bounded by hedgerows, are noted. The fields appear to have been improved in the 19th century, as they are in their current form on the 25 inch first edition Ordnance Survey map 1889 (Fig.6), whereas smaller more irregular fields are shown on the tithe map of 1840 (Figs.3, 4). The hedgerows must originate between these dates, and consist of species such as hawthorn, holly and bilberry. There is a steep break of slope

on the western edge of fields 4 and 5 (Fig. 2), which appears to have been created as a result of field improvement, although there is a general east-west slope present in this area

4.2 Archaeological and historical background

4.2.1. Earlier Prehistoric

No early prehistoric sites have been clearly identified within 1km of the proposed development area. A megalithic tomb is found at Cremlyn (SH 56707760, PRN 2643), of which only one stone survives so it is difficult to characterise (Lynch 1991, 87), but it appears to have been built on a natural mound. It could therefore be interpreted as a Bronze Age standing stone. A bronze axe has been found to the east of Llanfaes (SH 6070 7820, PRN 5223).

This evidence suggests that early prehistoric activity took place within the area, and there is some potential for the discovery of prehistoric burnt mounds (cooking places, usually indicated by deposits of fire cracked stones) close to the stream along the south western edge of the study area. Such sites require a water supply and are usually found close to watercourses of this type.

4.2.2 Late Prehistoric / Romano-British

The most significant site in the vicinity is the late prehistoric hillfort of Din Silwy (SH 5863 8146, PRN 2595). It is sited on top of a prominent limestone hill behind Llanddona. It covers an area of 6.8ha surrounded by a univallate rampart faced with limestone blocks. It has two entrances to the south and west (RCAHMW 1937, 83). There has been no excavation inside the fort, although unstratified material has been recovered over the years, including a hoard of copper and silver coins of Romano-British date in 1831, which included coins of the Emperors Nero, Vespasian, Constantius and Constantine (Lynch 1991, 260-261). A 'D' shaped earthwork (SH 60057954, PRN 2586), of probable late prehistoric date, is located about 700m north-east of Tan y Coed. A Roman coin has been found east of Llanfaes (SH 6074 7809, PRN 7097).

4.2.3 Medieval

Historically Tan y Coed lies within a detached portion of the very small parish of Llanfihangel Din Silwy, to the south of the main coastal portion of the parish, surrounded by the parish of Llaniestyn to the north and Llanfaes to the east and west. The church of St. Michael (SH 5880 8151, PRN 6998) is a two cell structure, with the chancel and nave being of the early 15th century, and there has been significant modernisation in the 15th century. The rectory of Llanfihangel Dinsilwy formed part of the endowment of the chantry of St. Catherine founded at Bangor Cathedral by Dean Richard Kyffin between 1480 and 1502 (Carr 1982, 276). The pre-conquest *tref*, or small hamlet, of Brynberfi is recorded as being held by the Bishop of Bangor and located close to Tan y Coed, although its exact location is not known (Richards 1972, 31).

The site lies about 1.5km north of Llanfaes, the *maerdref* or administrative centre, of the commote of Dindaethwy. A friary was established at Llanfaes in 1237 by Llewellyn ab Iorwerth in memory of his wife Joan. The location of the *maerdref* is likely to be to the south of the church. A significant number of finds of medieval date have been made to the east of Llanfaes, probably associated with the *maerdref*. These include a medieval purse lock (PRN 6595), ring brooch (PRN 6594), lead ampulle (PRN 7098) and coins (SH 6055 7782, PRN 7095).

4.2.4 Post-Medieval

Felin Cichle (SH 60077857, NPRN 24,614), a post-medieval mill building formed the northern outlying part of the Cichle estate, lying about 700m south of the development area. Cichle Farm (SH 60037842, PRN 11,067) is a building with some modernisation, but retains some ceiling beams that may be 17th century in date. A stone reset in the gable has a Latin cross with INRI above and date and initials 1601 W.G. (RCAHMW 1937, 67), and is a Grade II* listed building. Plas Cichle (SH 60027837, PRN 11,158), a post-medieval house, is Grade II listed building, as is also an outbuilding (SH 60007836, PRN 12,529). This estate, until it was broken up and sold off in 1896 (UCNWB Sale Catalogues 105), formed the boundary to the south of Tan y Coed.

4.2.5 Early-Modern/Modern

The land tax returns for the parish of Llanfihangel Din Silwy (Anglesey Archives WQT 42) show that the farm of Tan y Coed was occupied from at least 1767 by William Griffith who paid 4s 3d in land tax. In 1786 it was occupied by David Owen. In 1793 it was taken over by William Jones, and his family, who occupied the property until 1853. The census returns show that the farm was held by a number of different tenant families until 1901.

The tithe maps (Figs.3,4) show the area around Tan y Coed farm was located in a complicated arrangement within three parishes. Tan y Coed itself formed a detached portion of the parish of Llanfihangel Din Silwy, and was bounded in the north by the parish of Llaniestyn, and to the east and west by Llanfaes parish. The tithe schedules for the parish of Llanfihangel Din Silwy (National Library of Wales), show that the pattern of field boundaries in the area of the proposed development has altered considerably since 1840, however the relict field boundaries can be observed on modern aerial photographs as parch marks (*Google Earth* Image, viewed on 12th November 2009). The fields were part of Tan y Coed farm, belonging to Lord Dinorben of Llysdulas, Amlwch and they are described on the tithe schedule as below, along with adjacent fields belonging to other estates. *Cae Slates* is the field that subsequently had Second World War anti-invasion training trenches dug into it, and was part of the Cichle estate until 1896, when that estate was broken up (UWB Archives, Sale Catalogues 105).

LANDOWNER	OCCUPIER	No. on Plan	Name of Land and Premesis	State of Cultivation	Quantities in Statute Measure
The Right Honourable Lord Dinorben	Thomas Owen, Edward Williams and William Jones	13	Tan y Coed		44-3-77
Lewis James Dalton Esquire	James D. Lewis Esquire	14	Caeau cledwn		35-3-28
The Most Noble The Marquess of Anglesey	John Jones Esquire	15	Cae Slates		4-2-36
“	“	16	Part of <i>do.</i>		2-1-4

Within the proposed development area, the conifer plantations to the north of Tan y Coed farm, and the open field and woodland to the west of Tan y Coed, were located within the parish of Llaniestyn, and details of these are given below. Field 26 has a building in its south west corner (Fig. 4, Feature 6), which may be a field barn, although no evidence for this has been noted on the ground.

LANDOWNER	OCCUPIER	No. on Plan	Name of Land and Premesis	State of Cultivation	Quantities in Statute Measure
Sir John Hay Williams Bart.	Thomas Richard	17	Bodfedda		93- -6
Sir Richard Williams Buckley Bart	Thomas Rowland	25	Pen y Bryn		17-2-12
“	Richard Owen	26	Cefn Elech		-2-16

Tan y Coed was purchased from the Llysdulas estate by the Bulkeley’s of Baron Hill, Beaumaris in the later part of the 19th century, and became a freehold property when it was sold in October 1920 (NLW Sale Catalogues Angl. 115).

The field system to the east of Tan y Coed (Fields 1 to 5, Fig., 2) shows evidence of marked agricultural improvement between 1840 and 1889, with the laying out of five regular fields with new hedgerow field boundaries (Figs. 6 to 8, Plate 2). The woodland to the west of Tan y Coed can be seen to have reached its present extent by 1889 (Fig. 6).

The woodland to the west of Tan y Coed (Figs. 2 and 9, Plate 1) was used as a training area by the Royal Anglesey Royal Engineers, a Militia unit, based at Kingsbridge Camp, Llanfaes, during the First World War (Fig. 10). Kingsbridge Camp (PRN 31076, centred on NGR SH 6053 786) was located about 1.5km south-east of Tan y Coed.). It was opened in 1902 and closed at the end of the war in 1918, and saleable material from the camp was sold off in 1919 (NLW Sale Catalogues Angl. 118).

The camp housed engineers and sappers in addition during wartime, and included practice trench construction as part of the training regime (Fig. 11). It consisted of a central parade ground with barrack huts to the west, a cook house and stables lay to the east of the parade ground (Anglesey Archives, WDAB/38). In 1917 a daily expenditure of £1 18s 0d was spent on field rations for the occupants of the camp, which included exotic items such as pineapple as well as the more standard camp food (Anglesey Archives, WDAB/4). A number of occupants of the camp died in the flu outbreak of 1918 (Anglesey Archives, WDAB/7).

The training camp at Kingsbridge was one of many used across Britain to train the soldiers in the basic skills needed on the western front, including techniques of construction, daily routines, observation, communication and supply (Parry in Wakelin and Griffiths (eds.) 254-55). It has been noted that the huts had concrete foundations, and these remained after the saleable material had been removed (XM 939). This proved to be of assistance when the area of the camp subsequently became a caravan park.

To the west of Tan y Coed a remarkably complete set of practice trenches associated with this camp were dug (Plate 1). These seem to consist of a front line, or 'fire trench' down slope and service and zig-zag access or communication trenches running up slope behind it towards a support trench, linking both to a rear or reserve line. These trenches formed part of a trench training system used nationally and designed by Colonel Corry in 1915, based on his experiences in the Boer War and the Western Front in 1914 (Dawson 2007, 179), being an improvement on the methods recommended in the British General Staff Manual (Solano 1914). It is not thought likely that offensive and defensive military tactics were taught at Tan y Coed (Parry *pers. Comm.*). Other surviving examples are located at Penally in Pembrokeshire and Bodelwyddan in Flintshire (Driver 2007, 260-261). The practice trenches provided low-cost training to the million volunteers and later conscripts who served in the British Army. They were also seen as a propaganda tool, showing the level of preparedness of the army (Brown 2004). There must have been a certain amount of woodland clearance of the area to enable this work to be carried out, and the 1945 aerial photograph (Fig. 9) shows the woodland to be less dense than it is today. The area has since regenerated considerably and a significant amount of archaeology is probably obscured with scrubland. It was not unusual for practice trenches to be dug in woodland, at Pullingshill Wood, Marlow a considerable amount of tree felling was carried out in advance of entrenchment construction (Dawson 2007, 183-184).

In the Second World War a system of trenches was either re-used or constructed anew within the field referred to as *Cae Slattes* on the title map (Figs 3,4). These have a deep line of access trenches from the rear service trenches and associated diggings to the front line. These are clearly shown as open trenches on aerial photograph 1066/UK 655 3041, taken on 13th August 1945 (Fig. 9). This field formed part of the northern edge Cichle estate that was sold by auction in 1896, where the field is described as *Cae Slatters* (UWB Sale Catalogues 105).

4.3 Statutory and non-statutory designations

Six listed buildings are noted within 1km of the development area. These are Plas Cichle, Cichle Farm and Melin Cichle, Cefn Llech farm (PRN 11,049), Llanestyn Parish Church (PRN 7,024), Ty'n Llan (PRN 6,477). Cichle Farm and Llanestyn parish church are listed Grade II*. The other buildings are grade II listed. Those within 500m of the development area are listed in detail in the Appendix.

4.4 The Archaeological Survey (Fig. 2)

Feature 1 World War I Trench System (Fig. 9, Plate 1) PRN 31,070

SH 5928 7892 C

Period: Modern

Category: A Impact: Slight

A remarkably complete system of First World War practice trenches. The area surrounding the trenches is heavily wooded, therefore a complete impression of the trench system is difficult to obtain. The system lies on a slope above an escarpment which falls away to the south east towards a stream. However it appears that there is a front line down slope and service and access trenches running upslope behind it. A possible field bank defines the southern limits of the trench workings, and there is no evidence that the system extended beyond the current wooded area. The wooded area drops away sharply south eastwards beyond this point, where no evidence for trench workings have been located. The trenches are located on a hill-slope in quite difficult terrain, which is significantly different from most entrenchments noted. This may be due to the suitability of Tan y Coed in providing practice in entrenching in hilly conditions. First World War training trenches in

woodland are known in other parts of the United Kingdom, for example at Pullingshill, Marlow, Buckinghamshire, where some woodland clearance was carried out (Dawson 2007). This must also have been the case here.

This is a site of national importance in terms of its significance as a training camp associated with First World War trenching methods and field tactics and administration training, and should be considered for Scheduling. It may also be connected with the entrenchments to the south of Tan y Coed (Feature 3). It is comparable in importance to the scheduled practice trenches at Penally, Pembrokeshire and Bodelwyddan, Flintshire (Parry in Wakelin and Griffiths (eds.) 2009, 254-255), and even the Bustard trenches on Salisbury Plain (Saunders 2007, 206-207). They survive as reminders of the horror and squalor endured by soldiers who served on the battlefields of France and Flanders during the Great War.

Aerial photographs show that the site was less densely wooded earlier in the 20th century, and a certain amount of clearance must have taken place during its use as a military training area. Scrubland has developed in this area.

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendations for mitigatory measures: Avoidance

Feature 2 Terraced Area (Plate 3)

PRN 31,071

SH 5935 7902 C

Period: Unknown

Category: E Impact: Slight

A possible area of terracing, involving cutting into the bedrock. This may form part of a former trackway along this section of the route.

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendations for mitigatory measures: Avoidance

Feature 3 World War 2 Trench System (Fig.9)

PRN 31,072

SH 5986 7908

Period: Modern

Category: A Impact: Slight

Extensive complex of trenches with front line, access trenches and rear support trenches and command area, set within a relatively level field. They appear to be entirely contained within the field formerly known as *Cae Slatters*. The trenches are shown on aerial photograph 106G/UK 655 Frame 3041 taken 13th August 1945 (Fig. 9) as still open, and clearly had been in recent use. This does not preclude earlier, probably First World War, origins although no direct evidence for this can be found. Medwyn Parry (*pers. comm.*) states that the morphology of the trenches is entirely Second World War in character, although suggests that there may be ephemeral evidence for earlier entrenchments.. The distance between the front line and the rear trenches is considerable, which is the normal practice in Second World War trenches. They were probably dug as part of anti-invasion training in the early years of the war, as they would have been strategically redundant later on in the war. The location of the camp at which the soldiers were billeted during the Second World War when carry out this training is not known, but soldiers were housed at both Baron Hill and Henllys Hall during the Second World War. This trench system has previously been considered a First World War system, and whilst this cannot be ruled out, it was clearly in use in the Second World War. Along with Feature 1, the trenches form part of an important military training landscape, which if used contemporaneously, suggests that different topographic areas were used to train entrenching in different conditions. The author is not aware of any other examples of relatively small, self contained training entrenchments in such close proximity to each other. The setting of the trench system will be impaired by the log cabin development to the north and west, as the area forward of the front line may have formed part of the training area. It would certainly have formed an integral part of the landscape within which the training was carried out.

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendations for mitigatory measures: Avoidance

Feature 4 Tan y Coed Farmhouse and outbuildings (Plate 5)

PRN 31,073

SH 5952 7908

Period: Post medieval

Category: C Impact: Considerable

A farmhouse and outbuildings of early-modern date. The farmhouse is recorded as a simple rectangle on the Llanfihangel Din Silwy title map of 1840 (Fig.3), although the indications of buildings on the maps may well be only schematic. The buildings have undergone significant alterations in modern times, including partial

6. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Summary

Feature Number	Name	Importance	Impact	Recommendation for further evaluation	Mitigation recommendations
1	World War I Trench System	A	Slight	None	Avoidance
2	Terraced Area	E	Slight	None	Avoidance
3	World War 1 and/or 2 Trench system	A	Slight	None	Avoidance
4	Tan y Coed Farmhouse and outbuildings	C	Considerable	None	Basic Recording
5	Minor Lane from Llanfaes to Llangoed	C	Considerable	None	Basic recording
6	Building noted on tithe map	E	Slight	None	Avoidance

6.2 General Recommendations

6.2.1 Field Evaluation

The presence of the hillfort at Llanfihangel Din Silwy and other sites and finds of prehistoric, Roman and medieval date within south-east Anglesey suggest there is potential for the discovery of buried archaeology within the study area. Any archaeology of this nature will only be found by carrying out a programme of field evaluation. This would be best undertaken as a staged process, of which the first stage would be magnetometer survey, to be followed if required by targeted trial trenching or another form of intrusive evaluation. This process would also determine the presence of or the continuation of any anti-invasion trenches into this area. Following the field evaluation it will be possible to make appropriate mitigation recommendations for the area.

6.2.2 Mitigation

Details of site mitigation are given above, where it is recommended that the most appropriate course of action for sites 1, 2, 3 and 6 is to avoid any direct impact. The area of dense woodland containing the First World War archaeology is likely to contain further features of archaeological importance unidentified in the walk over survey. The trenches have been identified as being of national importance, and it is therefore recommended that the areas be avoided as part of the development proposals, and that any woodland management is undertaken carefully to avoid impact. This should mean that heavy machinery is not used, limited vehicle use and the process subject to archaeological monitoring. It is suggested that the proposed cabins 3 and 4 (Fig. 12, Ark Company Development Proposal plan) and proposed access road be moved slightly further south to avoid encroachment on the woodland area.

No hedgerows or field boundaries of pre 19th century date were definitely identified, and it would appear that the surviving examples date largely from agricultural improvements carried out between 1840 and 1889. However these are characteristic of the predominantly agricultural landscape and it is recommended that they be retained where possible.

7. CONCLUSIONS

The potential for the survival of archaeological remains in addition to those already recorded is thought to be Medium. No archaeological evidence of earlier than post-medieval was identified, however buried deposits of earlier relict archaeology may survive below ground, particularly in the five improved fields to the east of Tan y Coed, and the meadow land south of the farmhouse.

The area is however of high importance as a landscape of military training during the 20th century, particularly associated with practice trench digging during the First World War, by troops based at Kingsbridge camp, and also anti-invasion practice trench digging during the Second World War. It is recommended that care is taken to ensure that development close to the woodland, in the south eastern corner, does not impact upon the wooded area that contains the First World War trenches (Feature 1). Further evidence of 20th century military activity is likely to survive in this area.

It is recommended that a programme of field evaluation be carried out within the five fields to the east of Tan y Coed. This will be able to confirm the presence and nature of any surviving buried archaeology.

8. ARCHIVE

The archive consists of historic maps, plans and aerial photographs, along with notes and 112 digital images taken on the field visit.

Three copies of the bound report will be sent to the client, a copy to Ashley Batten at GAPS, and a further copy sent to the HER Archaeologist at the curatorial division of Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, Bangor, for deposition in the Regional HER. A copy of the report will be provided to the National Monument Record, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales, Aberystwyth.

9. REFERENCES AND OTHER SOURCES CONSULTED

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Wakelin, P. and Griffiths, R.A. 2008. *Hidden Histories. Discovering the Heritage of Wales* (RCAHMW, Aberystwyth)

GAT Historic Environment Record

Anglesey Archives, Llangefni

WDAB/7 Letter from J.W. Clarke to A. Hayley concerning the formers' time spent at Kingsbridge Camp.

WDAB/38 Rough sketch of the layout of Kingsbridge Camp, drawn by a veteran of the camp in 1978.

WDAB/41 Daily Messing Account, Kingsbridge Camp

XM 939 Cartoon by Sapper Handley

Bangor University Archives

Baron Hill MSS 8222 Estate in the parish of Llanfaes and Llaniestyn

Sale Catalogues 105 *Plan of Residential Freehold Estate 'Cichle' (1896)*

National Library of Wales

MAP/Sales Catalogues Angl. 115 *Sale of Baron Hill Estate Outlying Portions- 26th October 1920*

MAP/Sales Catalogues Angl. 118 *Catalogue of Sale of the 15 Capital Huttings from Kingsbridge Camp. Sale 3rd December 1919*

Tithe Maps of the Parishes of Llanfihangel Din Silwy, Llaniestyn and Llanfaes 1840-1842

RCAHM Wales Aberystwyth

Aerial Photographs

Verticals

RAF

106G/UK 655 F20 3041 Taken 13th August 1945

106G/UK 655 F20 3042 Taken 13th August 1945

58RAF/2196 0240 Taken 14th June 1957

Ordnance Survey

F49 71 033 50 Taken 10th April 1971

Appendix

Sites noted on the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record within 500m of the proposed development area							
PRN	NPRN	SITENAME	NGR	STATUS	SITESTAT	SITETYPE	PERIOD
2586	58463	EARTHWORK (D-SHAPED) - SITE OF, LLANIESTYN	SH60057954			EARTHWORK	Unknown
11049	15639	CEFN LLECH	SH58977894	GII	LB	BUILDING	Post-Medieval
11067	15660	CICHLE FARM;CICHLE FARM	SH60037842	GII*	LB	BUILDING	Post-Medieval
11158	15806	PLAS CICHLE	SH60027837	GII	LB	BUILDING	Post-Medieval
12529	31085	PLAS CICHLE, OUTBUILDINGS	SH60007836	GII	LB	BUILDING	Post-Medieval
21922	0	BRYN POETH QUARRY	SH60207950			QUARRY	Post-Medieval

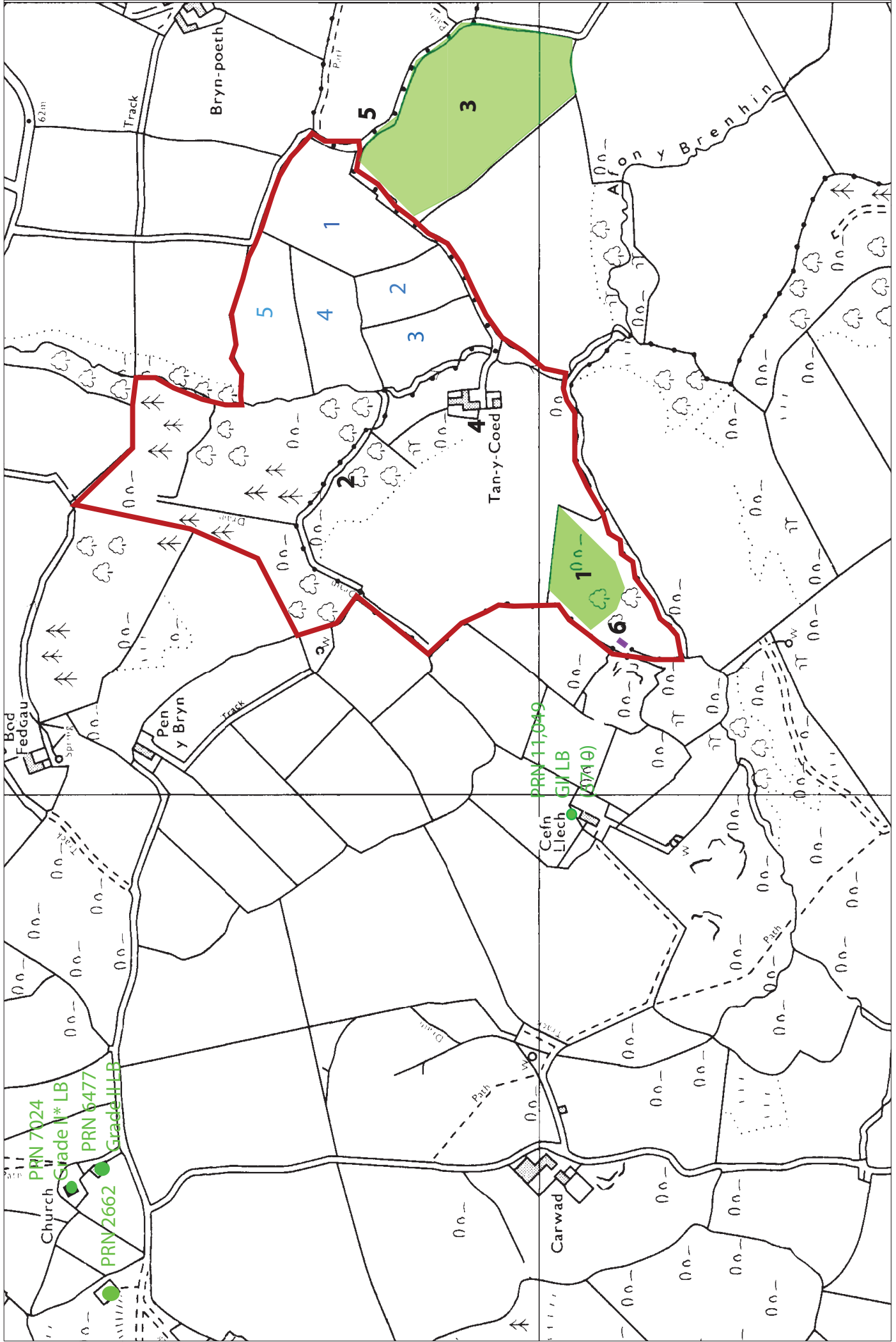


Fig. 2 Location of study area (outlined in red), numbered features (black) and field numbers (blue). Extent of features 1 and 3 are shown in green. The probable location of site 6 is shown in purple. Sites noted on the Gwynedd HER with their PRN numbers are shown in green. Base map Ordnance Survey 1:10 000 sheet SH 57 NE. Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100020895

IN THE COUNTY OF
ANGLESEY

Scale 8 Chains to 1 Inch

*Apur. Ancestral Bloor
 Apur. Little Farm*

Llanfihangel Church

to Beaumaris

LLANFAES PARISH

PARISH

LLANFESTIN

LLANFAES PARISH

We the Undersigned J. H. B. Commissioner for England
 and Wales do hereby certify this to be in a Map or
 Plan agreed to in the Appointment of the West
 Charge in lieu of Tithe in the parishes of
 Llanfihangel din Silwy in the County of
 Anglesey

In Witness our Hands,
 J. H. B. Butler
 (Signed) J. H. B. Butler

Fig. 3 Extract from the tithe map of Llanfihangel Din Silwy of 1842 showing the detached southern portion of the parish forming Tan y Coed Farm

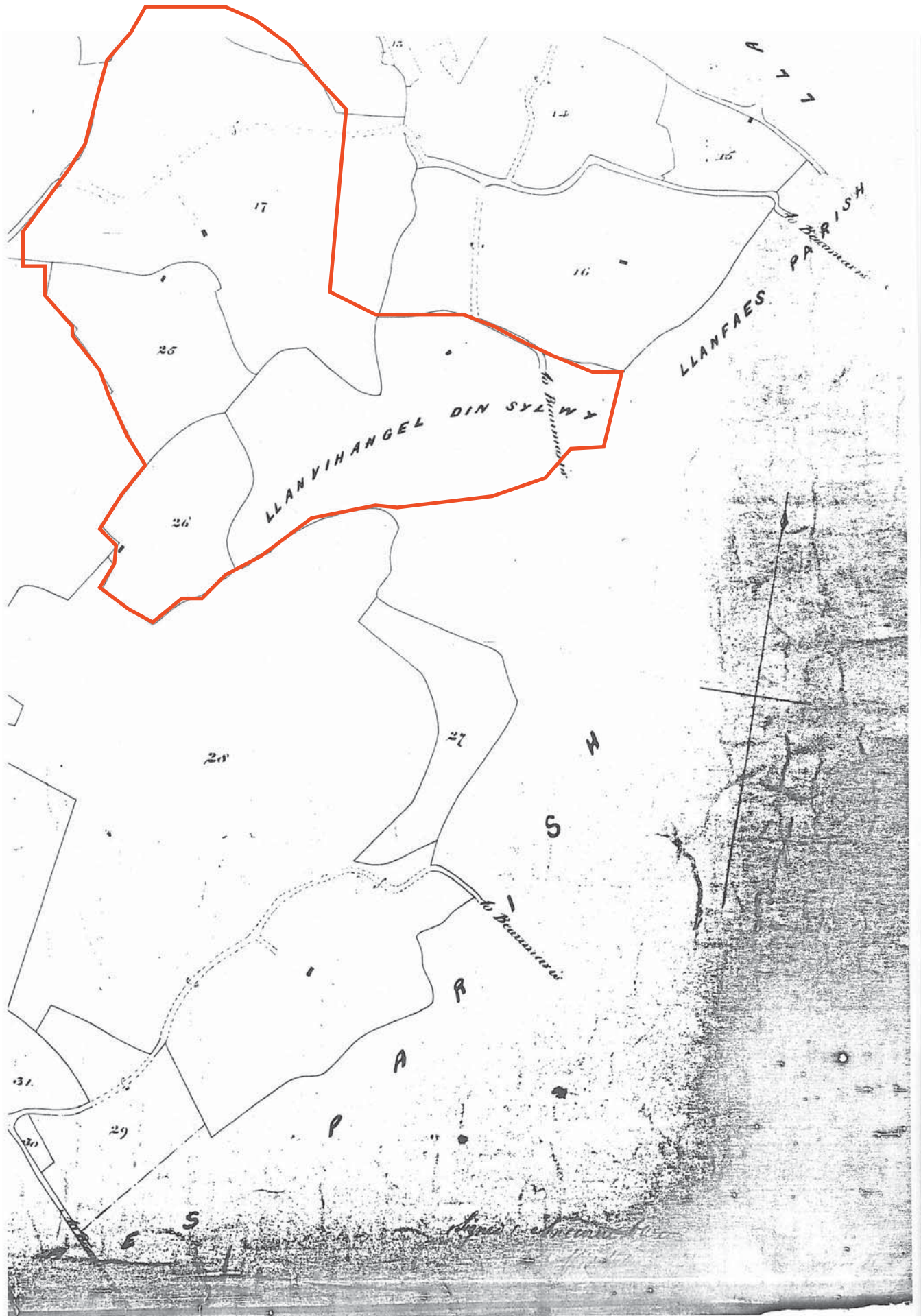


Fig. 4 Extract from the Llanestyn tithe map of 1840 with study area outlined in red



Fig. 5 Extract from a Cichle estate sale map of 1896 (UCNWB Sale catalogues 105) showing 'Lot 5', the site of the Second World War Trenches (Feature 3, outlined in red).

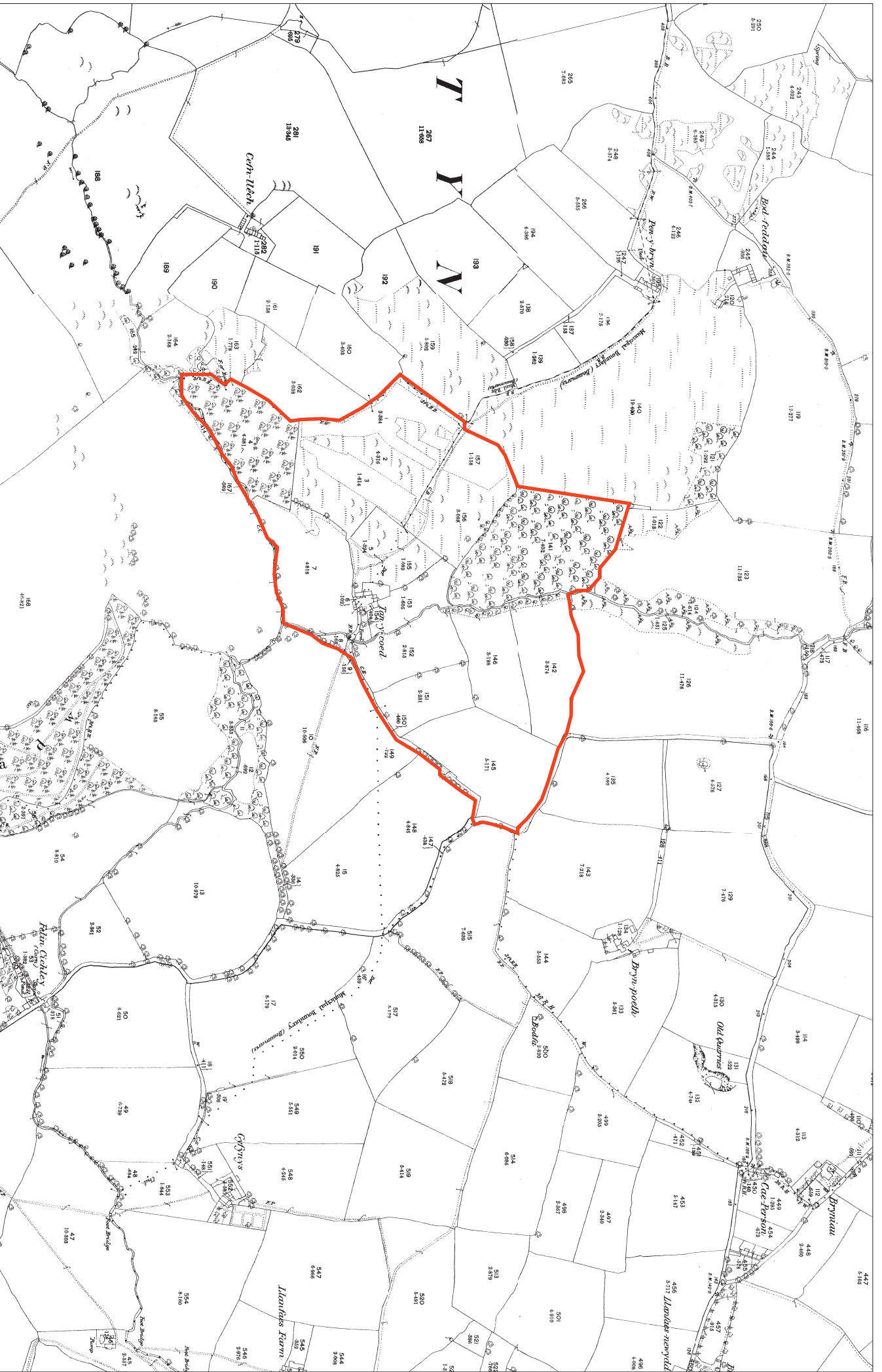


Fig. 6 Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 25 inch map of 1889. Anglesey sheet XV.5 and 9. Study area outlined in red. Scale 1:5000

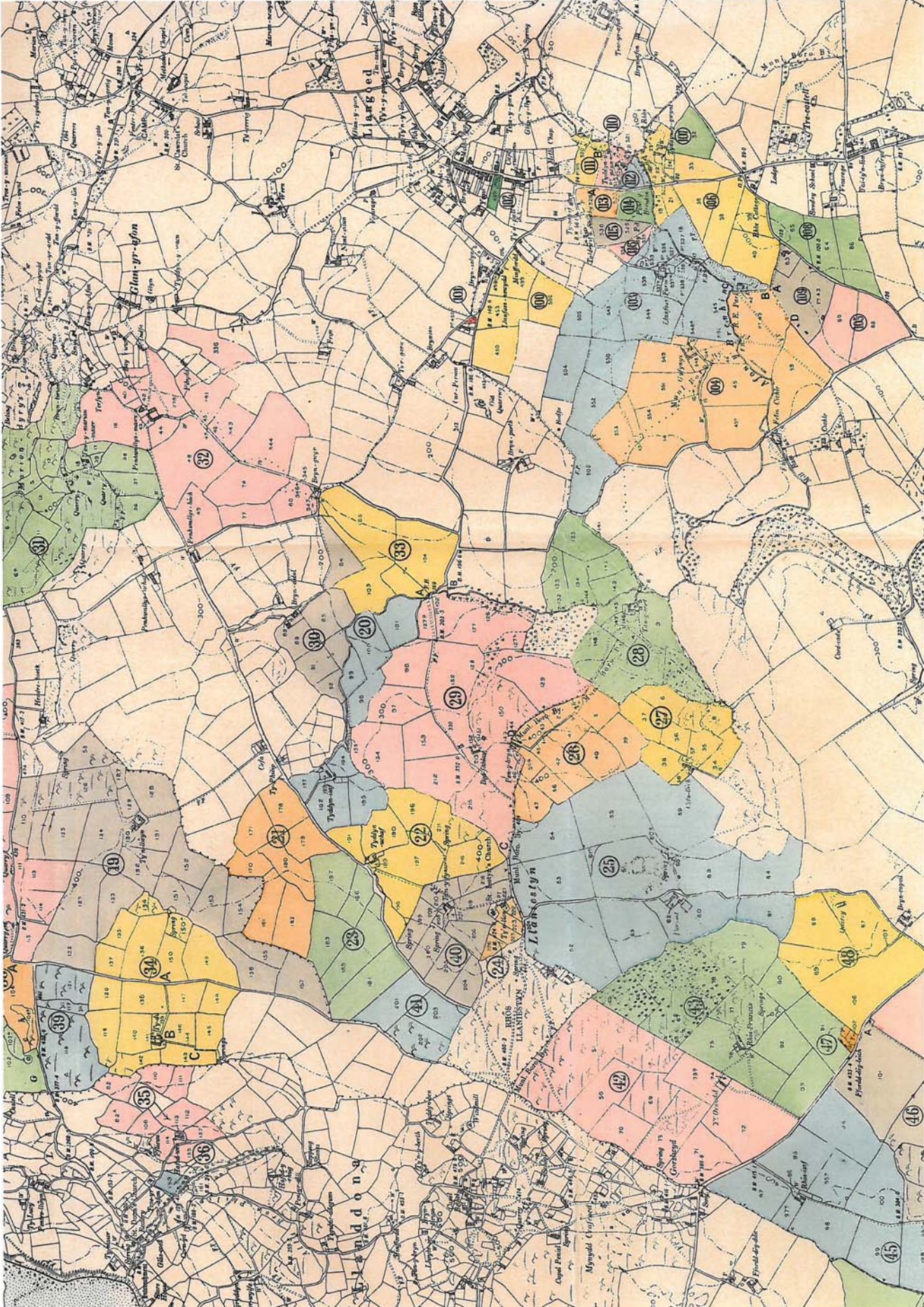


Fig. 8 Map extract from Sale catalogue of Baron Hill estate outlying portions in 1920 (NLW Sale Catalogues Angl. 115). Tan y Coed farm is coloured green and numbered lot 28.



Fig. 9 Extract from RAF aerial photograph 106G/UK655 frame 3042 showing open trenches in the foreground (Feature 3) and Feature 1 outlined in red



Fig. 10 A Postcard showing Kingsbridge Army Camp during the First World War



Fig. 11 A cartoon by Sapper Bernard Handley, stationed at Kingsbridge Camp, showing trench digging tools (Anglesey Archives XM 939)

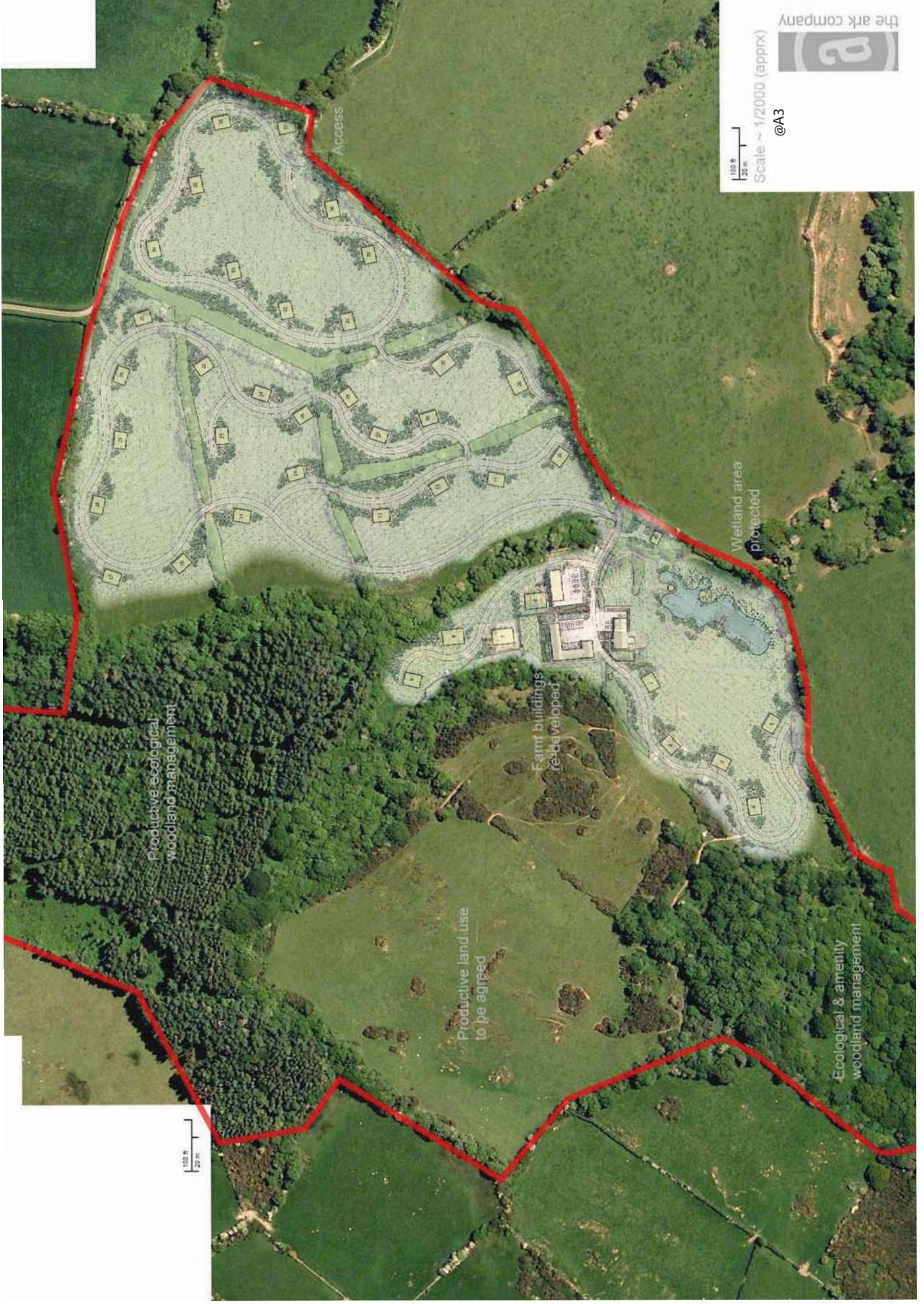


Fig. 12 Development Proposal Plan (Ark Company Drawing)



Plate 1 First World War Access trench (Feature 1), looking towards the front line.



Plate 2 General view of improved fields to the east of Tan y Coed, the proposed location of most of the log cabin development.



Plate 3 Rising ground to the north-east of Tan y Coed, showing possible evidence of terracing, or strip lynchets agriculture (Feature 2).



Plate 4 19th century hedgerow containing hawthorn, bilberry and sloe.



Plate 5 Tan y Coed farmhouse from the east



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