

CPAT Report No. 1496

# North-east Wales Community Archaeology Programme 2016-17



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government






Bryniau Clwyd a  
Dyffryn Dyfodwy  
Clwydian Range  
and Dee Valley  
Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol  
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



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## Summary

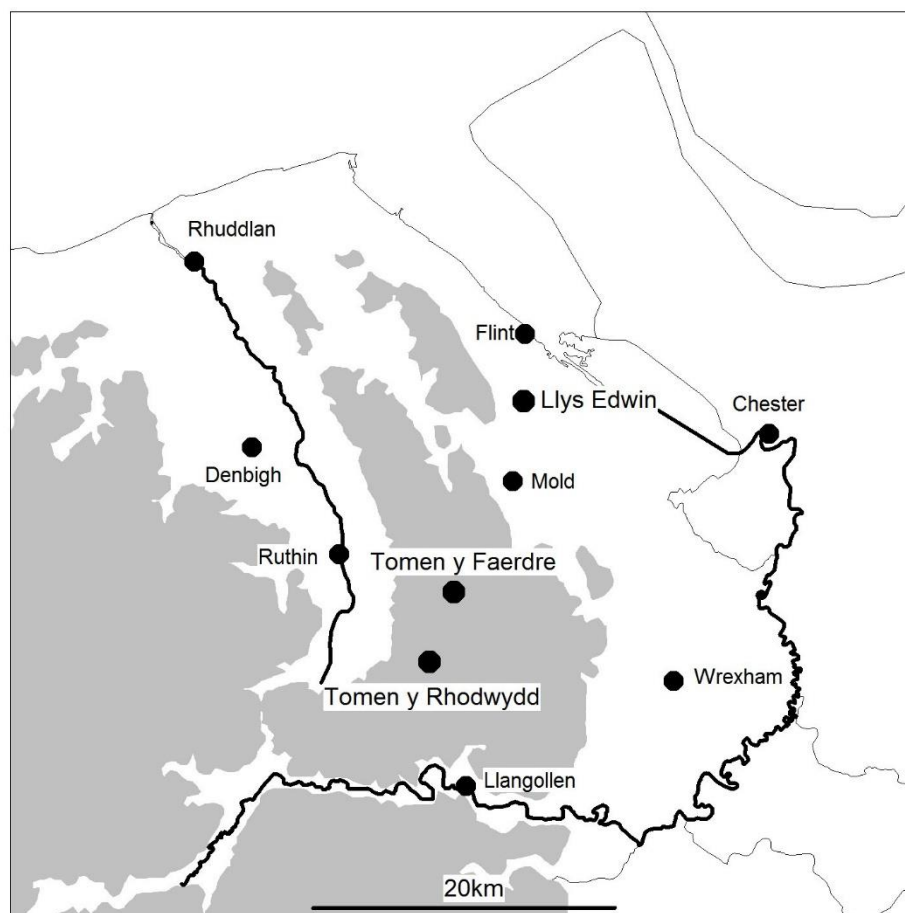
The North-east Wales Community Archaeology project, initiated in 2013-14 with grant aid from Cadw, undertakes volunteer and education-oriented, archaeology-based tasks in the former Clwyd region, ranging from conservation to archaeological fieldwork and educational events. The project has continued in 2016-17 with further community-based activities continuing at Llys Edwin (SAM Fl 023; PRN 100289) and Tomen y Rhodwydd (SAM De 018; PRN 100932), with work at Tomen y Faerdre (SAM De 006; PRN 100888) in preparation for a continuation in the following season. This year, volunteer working groups also included students from Coleg Cambria (Llysfasi), Chester University, Liverpool University and Glyndŵr University. The project has once more benefited from the support of the Clwydian Range AONB Sustainability Fund in completing the vegetation clearance at Tomen y Rhodwydd.

The focus of this year's work has been a continuation of the work at Llys Edwin, including excavations within the moated site, geophysical survey and an open day. The excavation provided an ideal opportunity for local students to be trained in basic archaeological techniques, as well as relating to studies in other disciplines such as history, forensics, biodiversity and horticulture. The excavations revealed part of the south-east wall of the hall, which had originally been uncovered in the 1930s, allowing a better comparison to be made between the recent topographical survey and plan of Glenn's excavations. The majority of deposits investigated consisted of various spreads of excavation backfill, from which it was clear that the earlier investigations were not focused on the retrieval of artefactual evidence, the deposits containing significant quantities of pottery, glass, metalwork and building materials.

At Tomen y Rhodwydd the project was again involved with vegetation clearance, completing the work within the scheduled area which has enhanced greatly the visibility of the monument and enabled visitors to better appreciate the earthworks. Similar work is planned for nearby Tomen y Faerdre in 2017-18, with an initial phase of work during the current year focusing on obtaining permissions and conducting a preliminary topographical survey.

# 1 Introduction

- 1.1. The North-east Wales Community Archaeology project was initiated in 2013-14 with grant aid from Cadw with the aim of undertaking volunteer and education-oriented, archaeology-based tasks in the former Clwyd region, ranging from conservation to fieldwork and educational events. These tasks have been identified through a process of consultation with Cadw and Denbighshire County Council which considers both conservation needs, educational opportunities and potential additional resources available for each. The programme of work during the first year concentrated on survey, conservation and outreach activities at Tomen y Rhodwydd (Castell yr Adwy) near Llandegla, Denbighshire (SAM De 018; PRN 100932), and continued in 2014-15 with further work at this site, as well as Llys Edwin, near Northop Flintshire (SAM FI 023; PRN 100289) (Fig. 1).



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Fig. 1 The location of Llys Edwin and Tomen y Faerdre in North-east Wales

- 1.2. The project continued in 2015-16 with further community-based activities such as geophysical and topographical field survey workshops and vegetation management conservation days, involving students from Coleg Cambria (Llysfasi), Chester University, Liverpool University and Glyndŵr University. Students also had the opportunity to visit the Flintshire Archives as part of the Llys Edwin project.

- 1.3. Following on from the success of the previous years, a further programme of community engagement was proposed for 2016-17. The project focussed on the continuation of the earthwork survey at Llys Edwin (FI023), the highlight being an evaluation (limited community excavation) of a trench from the 1931 archaeological excavation followed by an Open Day encompassing the results of the excavations, site tours and period re-enactment displays. In addition to this there was to be an initial phase of topographical survey and (if possible) vegetation clearance at Tomen y Faerdre, Llanarmon-yn-Ial (De006). The ongoing vegetation management of Tomen y Rhodwydd was to continue, although this would be purely volunteer based and was supervised voluntarily by the author. 2017 would also see the implementation of the Clwydian AONB funded site improvements and interpretation plan for Tomen y Rhodwydd. As ever, throughout the N.E.W.C.A programme CPAT have been supported by regional further education institutes, students, volunteers and visitors from numerous local interest groups (see Appendix 1 for list of participants).



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Fig. 2 The location of Llys Edwin, adjacent to Glyndŵr University and Coleg Cambria, Northop

## 2 Llys Edwin

- 2.1. The site (SJ 2370 6933; SAM F1 023; PRN 100289) lies less than a mile to the north-west of Northop, and back from the coast by just over 3km. Rising ground to the south-west is broken only by the sharp defile of the small watercourse known as Afon Conwy while flattish ground to the north-east constitutes one of the natural shelves in the landscape above the Dee Estuary. The following text is based on research undertaken by Bob Silvester as part of the Cadw-funded study of Llysoedd and Maerdrefi (Silvester 2015).
- 2.2. In name it is associated with an 11<sup>th</sup>-century historical figure, Eadwine (or Edwin) of Tegeingl who appears in Domesday Book (1086). The entry for *Castretone* was assumed by T. A. Glenn to be synonymous with Llys Edwin and that appears to have been accepted without question by more recent authorities (e.g. Rumble and Morgan). Ellis Davies referred to a nearby plantation as Coed Llys, and further north, about 500m to the north-east of Llys Edwin is Llŷs Farm, but it is entirely unclear how far back in time these *llys* names can be taken.



Fig. 3 Aerial view of Llys Edwin in 1987. Photo CPAT 87-MB-872

- 2.3. A succinct description was provided originally in the Royal Commission's *Inventory* for Flintshire in 1912 which described a near-square enclosure with an inner ditch and outer bank, a mound in the north-east corner of the enclosure which had a separate bank and ditch around its west and south sides. For the Royal Commission this was a small Motte and Bailey, but one that was not positioned in a strong natural location. Further earthworks lay to the west.

- 2.4. In 1931 T. A. Glenn excavated Llys Edwin on behalf of Lady Daresbury, publishing his results three years later in a privately published volume entitled *The Family of Griffith of Garn and Plasnewydd*, though it was also re-printed as a separate publication. Glenn exposed the remains of a stone hall, probably of the first half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, but with timber predecessors. From the excavation report of three years later it can be gathered that Glenn identified at least four phases, as well as activity, indicative presumably of robbing and disturbance, and artefacts from Tudor times onwards. The excavation revealed a gate flanked by square projecting towers and opposite on the far side of the moat, a stone bridge abutment. South-east of this were a hall, kitchen and pantry, and a further square tower occupied the north angle of the moat. North-west of the yard were further rooms. While subsidiary buildings were found inside the moat on the south-east and south-west sides and were said to include a forge and stables, the latter apparently large enough to accommodate twenty or more horses, with a 'detached tower of great strength' close to the stables.
- 2.5. All these remains were of stone. Glenn considered that the hall complex had been partially rebuilt probably in the earlier 13<sup>th</sup> century, that the first stone phase replaced a half-timbered predecessor, and that this had in turn succeeded a timber building defined by post-holes.
- 2.6. On the south-west side of the site was a second moat (or ditch), this one wider, and, as shown on the Ordnance Survey plan, extending further to the north-west than the moated enclosure, other than its south-western side which also runs on, following a parallel course. Early commentators saw these as outworks but the Ordnance Survey in 1962 were inclined to the more prosaic view that they were fishponds. The Ordnance Survey field investigator also recorded a further anomaly in that the north-eastern ditch of the enclosure continued towards the south-east, halting abruptly at the edge of the field, but suggesting more complexity to the earthworks than acknowledged by Glenn.

### **Earthwork Survey**

- 2.7. The earthwork survey commenced in 2014-15, covering a small area on the north-western side of Llys Edwin. In 2015-16 this was extended to cover the whole of the scheduled site currently under the management of Glyndŵr University (see Fig. 24). As before, the survey afforded an opportunity for students from the nearby Glyndŵr University and Chester University to gain experience in digital surveying and the interpretation of earthwork monuments. Over a period of five days the students assisted in the production of an extensive, detailed topographical survey which included a transect profile across the monument.
- 2.8. As well as mapping the earthworks the students were encouraged to discuss the numerous management issues associated with the up-keep of a scheduled monument. This particular exercise generated a rather interesting degree of lively debate with Glyndŵr University (Biodiversity) students raising opposing conservation concerns to those of the Chester University (Archaeology) students. Both the professional CPAT staff and students benefitted from this broader view of site management. The initial result was the production of a management plan (see Fig. 23) highlighting the principal active erosion issues at Llys Edwin. Of considerable concern was the extensive nature and size of the rabbit warrens, the locations of which, ironically, appeared to favour areas of significant archaeology containing



buried in situ medieval masonry and deposits rich in palaeoenvironmental and artefactual potential. Two fragments of pottery, a strap handle and a body sherd from a fine example of a 13<sup>th</sup>-century jug, and the corroded remains of an iron riding spur were recovered from the warren spoil. In addition to this there was considerable surface evidence of medieval masonry crumbling as a consequence of animal turbation.

- 2.9. The results of the 2014-15 and 2015-16 surveys of Llys Edwin have allowed the production of a composite plan combining the topographical survey with Glenn's plan of the 1931 excavations, published in 1934 (see Fig. 24). From this it is now possible to ascertain a more accurate interpretation of Glenn's excavation results, compared with what is visible today, as a series of low lying earthworks, possible spoil heaps and denuded tower masonry.
- 2.10. Further topographical survey had originally been planned for 2016-17, although the vegetation was such that it was not possible to undertake the survey at the time the excavation was conducted. It is hoped that this will continue in 2017/18, providing further training opportunities for students. The results will also inform future vegetation management plans for this part of the site, currently under the care of Coleg Cambria.

### **Excavation**

- 2.11. Following on from recommendations made in 2015-16 an area was identified which was known to have been investigated by Glenn, and therefore had significant archaeological potential, and was also under active threat from animal burrowing. The intention was to demonstrate the level of disturbance to the archaeological resource, identify key features recorded by Glenn to facilitate comparisons with the excavation plans, as well as gain a better understanding of the archaeological deposition in this area. The excavation was undertaken entirely by hand over a period of 10 days, within an area measuring 15m by 5m, the work being conducted according to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014).
- 2.12. The trench (see Figs 24-5) was located within an area described by Glenn as the south-east end of the main (great) hall, with the kitchens and a scullery to the rear, both built in timber rather than stone (Glenn 1934, 6-8). While Glenn's published report does not include any photographs of this area illustrations of other areas which were investigated demonstrates that significant structural remains were identified which is presumed were left *in situ*.

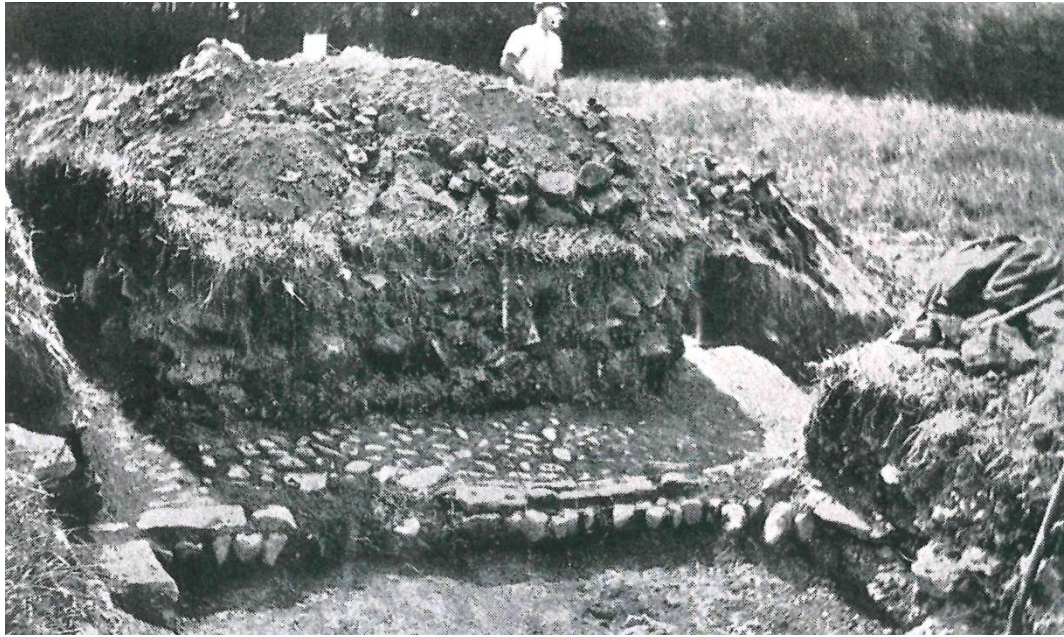


Fig. 4 Glenn's excavations of the main gate (Glenn 1934, fig. 1)



Fig. 5 Glenn's excavations of the fireplace of in the solar (Glenn 1934, facing p. 12)

- 2.13. The excavations was undertaken with the aid of local volunteers and students from Coleg Cambria, Glyndŵr and Chester Universities, as well as members of the Clwydian Range Archaeology Group (CRAG) (see Appendix 1 for participants). The participation of local students was particularly valuable since this drew in not only archaeology students, but also those studying history, forensics, biodiversity and horticulture.
- 2.14. Around 0.14–0.2m of topsoil was removed to reveal a spread of rubble (02), the size of stones suggesting that this material had been sorted prior to its deposition, indicating that it was part of the 1930s excavation backfill and not demolition or

collapsed masonry. The rubble contained artefacts with a wide date range, reinforcing the belief that it was backfill material, and included building material consisting of brick, two types of slate roofing tile and stone tile.



Fig. 6 The south-western end of the excavation, showing the south-eastern wall (08) of the hall with sondages to the right investigating the layers of rubble. Photo CPAT 4261-0163



Fig. 7 The south-eastern wall (08) of the hall viewed from the north-west, showing the stepped foundations and the robbed inner wall face. Photo CPAT 4261-0179

- 2.15. Removal of the rubble revealed the remains of a masonry wall (08) orientated south-west to north-east, measuring 0.6m wide, with a surviving height of two courses (0.26m) above the foundations, which were stepped outwards. Around 5m of the wall was exposed within the excavation, although it clearly continued to the south-west, beyond the limits of excavation. There was clear evidence for robbing along the north-west side (see Figs 6-7), which was also noted by Glenn, who identified this as the south-eastern wall of the main hall. The wall was bonded with lime mortar, samples of which were recovered for possible future analysis.
- 2.16. To the north of the wall a large stone (09) was identified projecting in the north-western edge of the excavation (Fig. 8). This was 1.0m across and 0.2m thick and may correspond with a wall identified by Glenn, although the accuracy of his survey was not sufficient to make definite comparisons.



Fig. 8 The north-eastern end of wall 08 with the large stone (09) in the lower right-hand corner and spreads of rubble beyond. Photo CPAT 4261-0119

- 2.17. There were obvious differences in the composition of the rubble spread across the excavated area and it was not immediately apparent whether all of this material was derived from excavation backfill or might perhaps have been *in situ* archaeology. The rubble had to be removed carefully in order to determine the significance of the layers and also to recover the numerous artefacts which it contained. Owing to time restrictions the composition of the rubble was investigated in a number of sondages which were excavated to differing depths, investigating the uppermost rubble deposits: context 03, 0.1m thick; context 05, 0.1m thick; and context 07, 0.1m thick (see Fig. 25). The north-eastern part of the excavated area contained similar rubble spreads, with stone again appearing to have been sorted by size, such that the largest stones no larger than 150mm x 80mm x 80mm. Two of the deposits (05 and 06) were notably rich in lime mortar, again representing material from Glenn's excavation.

- 2.18. A low earthwork bank was recorded in the topographical survey with the excavated area, reflecting in part the line of wall 8, but then turning a right angle and heading north-westwards. Evidence from the excavation suggests that this part corresponded with a 1.8m-wide spread of rubble (03) which was interpreted as excavation spoil derived from the area of the hall and subsequently not reinstated.
- 2.19. The investigations concluded that virtually all of the deposits investigated related to the manner in which the 1930s excavations had been reinstated, the only possible exception being a compacted and iron-panned layer (04) which contained large sherds of Midland Purple Ware (Fig. 10), typically dating from the 15/16<sup>th</sup> century.
- 2.20. On completion the excavation was reinstated carefully with the aid of a small mechanical excavator. A geotextile membrane was laid across the excavated area prior to reinstatement in order to facilitate subsequent phases of investigation. The larger stones recovered from the rubble spreads were used to infill areas damaged by burrowing animals in order to inhibit further disturbance (see Fig. 9).



Fig. 9 Re-instatement of the internal face of the moat embankment. The excavated rubble has been re-used to backfill the rabbit erosion. Photo CPAT 4261-0210

- 2.21. It is hoped that the project will continue in 2017-18 comprising further, targeted excavation within the bounds of the area already investigated in order to establish the nature of *in situ* medieval deposits at an early stage and thus inform the excavation process for other test trenches around the site.
- 2.22. The excavations recovered a substantial assemblage of artefacts including medieval and later pottery, roofing tile, ironwork, and pale green window glass, similar to that noted by Glenn. It was clear from the material recovered that the previous excavations had paid little heed to the collection of everyday artefacts. A large

quantity of 17/18<sup>th</sup>-century pottery, probably from Buckley, was collected, demonstrating a period of occupation on site previously unrecorded.



Fig. 10 Sherds of Midland Purple Ware recovered from context 04. Photo CPAT 4261-0220



Fig. 11 Fragments of medieval iron knives recovered from within the wall 008.

- 2.23. The richness and variety of the artefactual evidence added considerable value to the excavations as a training exercise for the students. Of particular note is the collection of animal bone which is being analysed and reported on by Sam Noon with assistance from Dr Charlotte O'Brien, Archaeological Services, University of Durham.

## Open Day

- 2.24. A site Open Day was organised towards the end of the project in order to inform members of the local community and the wider public about the historical and archaeological significance of the site, as well as presenting the results of the survey and the excavation. Although the weather conditions were not favourable on the day, approximately 42 people attended the Open Day, engaging in site tours (led by volunteer excavators) and re-enactment displays (courtesy of medieval re-enactment group Cwmwd Iâl). Staff from both Glyndŵr University and Coleg Cambria were also on hand to host and supervise static displays of the original artefacts recovered from the 1930s excavation (courtesy of Flintshire Archives).



Fig. 12 Glyndŵr University and Coleg Cambria staff together with members of Cwmwd Iâl Medieval Re-enactment Society. Photo CPAT 4261-0134



Fig. 13 Glyndŵr (Northop) Biodiversity Student Sam Noon, displaying his study of the animal bone from the Llys Edwin excavations. Photo CPAT 4261-0138

### Geophysical Survey by Richard Hankinson

- 2.25. The opportunity was also taken to conduct a geophysical survey with the assistance of students from the local institutions to evaluate the potential of the technique on this particular site, with a view to undertaking more extensive surveys in the future, well as testing areas outside the existing scheduled area to determine whether the protection is sufficient. There have been reports of metal detecting activity immediately outside the scheduled area in recent years and while it has been hoped to investigate the area affected the undergrowth was too dense to permit this at the time the survey was conducted. Those areas which were surveyed, particularly Areas 2 and 3, were only made accessible following considerable vegetation clearance and we are grateful for the additional help from Richard Lewis (Glyndŵr University) in this matter.
- 2.26. The geophysical survey (Figs 26-7) was based on a series of 20m by 20m grids and employed a Bartington 601 fluxgate gradiometer. The readings in each grid were taken along traverses 0.5m apart and the speed of each traverse was carefully controlled such that readings were taken every 0.25m, giving a total of 3200 readings per grid. The grids were laid out by taped measurement and then located in relation to local field boundaries by total station survey. The survey areas could then be related to modern Ordnance Survey mapping, thereby enabling the co-ordinates of any significant anomalies to be determined and the results compared to those from previous excavations and topographic survey. The readings from each area were combined and processed using Archeosurveyor software to provide greyscale images of the results. Minimal processing was carried out on the raw data; the main processing functions used were *Destripe* to remove variations in the readings between



opposing traverses and *Clip*, to remove the effects of very high and very low readings on the results, thereby allowing anomalies of potential archaeological interest to be observed.

- 2.27. The first area to be examined (Area 1) lay in a pasture field to the south-east of Llys Edwin, a locality identified as potentially suitable for some extra-mural settlement or related activity extending beyond the currently known bounds of the site. The results showed that the area contained a number of anomalies, but almost all of these appeared to be responses to magnetic objects in the soil, rather than potential archaeological features. Only one linear feature (1) was identified which may be indicative of a ditch, 1.5m wide and at least 60m long, aligned north-east/south-west and running down the slope. There is no obvious association with Llys Edwin and the most likely interpretation is a post-medieval drainage ditch or gully, which was subsequently infilled.



Fig. 14 Geophysics survey, Area 1, in pasture fields south of Llys Edwin.  
Photo CPAT 4261-0059

- 2.28. Area 2 lay to the north-west of the site, although its south-eastern part overlapped slightly with the earthworks which define that side of Llys Edwin; only a small number of anomalies were evident in the result, all of linear character. Two parallel linear features (2), 7m apart, aligned north-north-west/south-south-east and each about 1.5m wide and at least 20m long, lay to the north-west of the earthworks, perhaps representing post-medieval drains. Their alternating magnetic response suggested that they may have contained some ferrous material, but this is perhaps more likely to have been owing to the infilling material or the deposition within them of iron-rich material, rather than being indicative of a metal pipe. Of more potential significance was a narrow linear anomaly (3), probably a ditch, no more than 1.0m in width and at least 65m long, that curved around and mirrored the course of the north-western end of the earthworks. Although narrow, this could indicate a previously

unknown element of the defences; whether this is the case or not, there does appear to be some correlation between the ditch and the earthworks of Llys Edwin.

- 2.29. Rather more activity was apparent in Area 3, which was placed within the earthworks. In the north-eastern part of the area were at least five parallel linear anomalies (4), probably representing the furrows of a small area of ridge and furrow or 'lazy bed' cultivation. These were aligned north-east/south-west and were around 20m long, with a separation between centres of 2.5m to 3.0m. Their dating remains unknown, but it seems more likely that they would have post-dated Llys Edwin. In the south-western part of the area, were three parallel linear anomalies (5) of near identical appearance and dimensions to those forming anomaly 2 in Area 2; these were at least 20m long and aligned north-north-east/south-south-west. It is assumed that they represent post-medieval drainage efforts.

### 3 Tomen y Faerdre

- 3.1. The substantial earthwork of Tomen y Faerdre lies on the eastern side of the Afon Alun, on the edge of the small village of Llanarmon-yn-Iâl (SAM De 006; PRN 100888). Work during 2016-17 formed an initial phase of investigation in preparation for a programme of vegetation clearance similar to that completed at nearby Tomen y Rhodwydd, again using students from Coleg Cambria (Llysfasi) and local volunteers. This will form part of the NEWCA programme for 2017-18 for which additional funding has been offered by the Clwydian Range AONB to both enhance and improve the interpretation of the site.

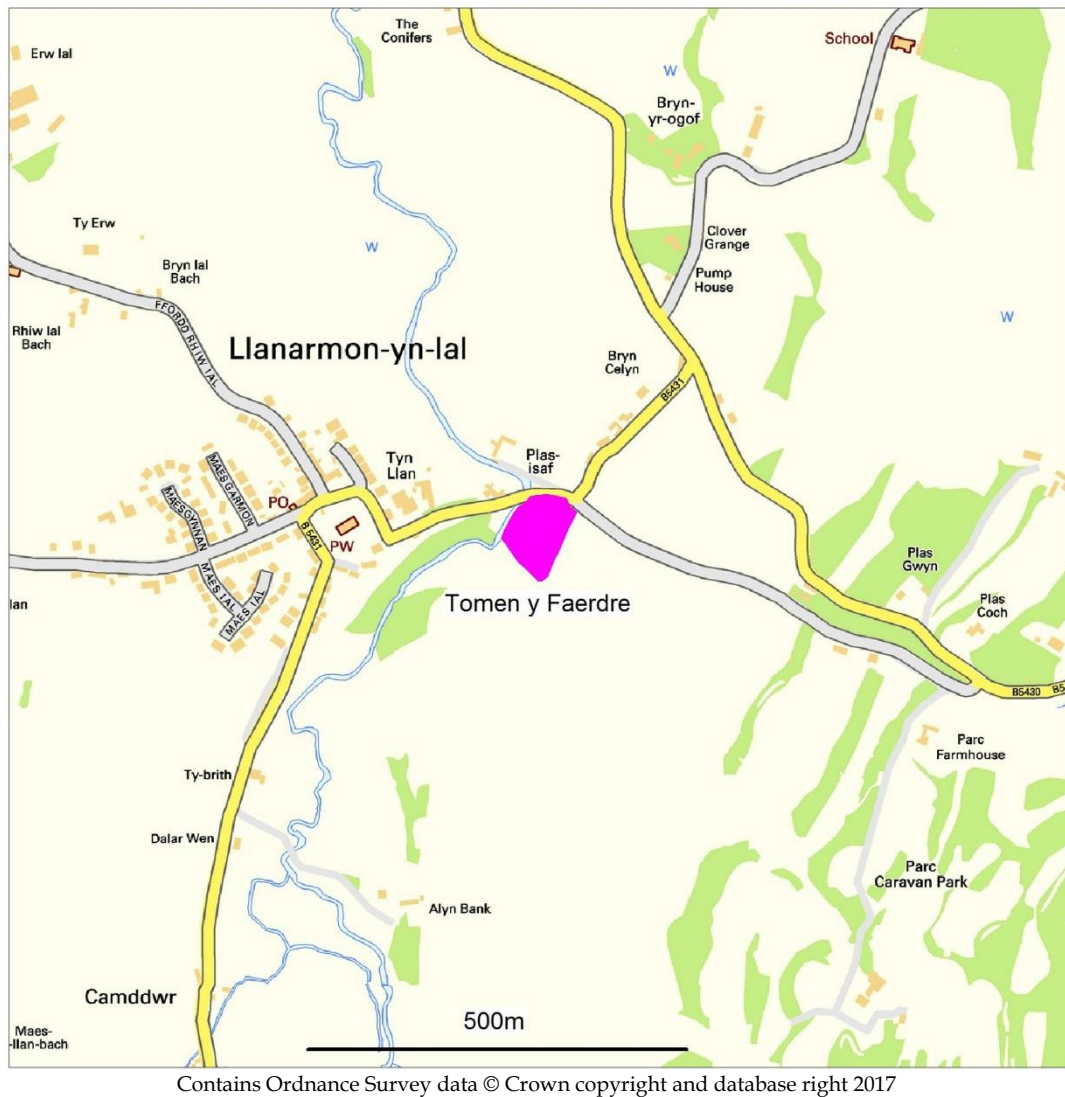


Fig. 15 The location of Tomen y Faerdre

#### Historical background

- 3.2. The historical background of Tomen y Faerdre has been summarised recently by Silvester (2015, 26-7), from which the following text has been derived. There are various interpretations regarding the origin of the motte, the placename implying that it was associated with a pre-Norman *llys*, rather than reflecting Norman control. While the Royal Commission back in 1914 argued that the motte itself would have been the

*llys*, it is equally plausible that there was an earlier, pre-12<sup>th</sup>-century *llys* in the immediate neighbourhood, with the motte being its deliberately positioned post-Conquest successor. Beverley Smith has cautioned against a simple equation, and points to a 'strong possibility that the motte was of Norman origin', not least because Domesday Book points to intrusion into Iâl from the earldom of Shrewsbury by 1086, and perhaps too other commotes of Powys Fadog displaying mottes erected close to *maerdref* locations such as Erddig, Chirk and Sycharth.

- 3.3. A potential issue, however, is that the motte appears to lie not in the *maerdref* but in a free township. This apart the court makes a late appearance in the First Extent of Bromfield and Yale in AD 1315, for freeholders and bondmen alike were responsible for the maintenance of the 'hall, chamber, stable, grange and cattle-shed, each 64 feet long and thatched with lathes instead of straw' (Ellis).
- 3.4. Glanville Jones argued that on the western side of the river around the church was the *maerdref* or bond settlement in an area known as Tre'r Llan. The unfree bondmen provided the local labour on the lord's demesne attached to the *llys* on the east side of the river. The presence of the motte known as Tomen-y-faerdre, translated by Pratt as 'the mound at the bailiff's township' is explicable in terms of a *maerdref* being both an area (or township) and a settlement name. Pratt, however, does highlight another issue, though appears to gloss over it, by noting that the motte was, strictly speaking, in the free township of Creigiog Is Glan. Palmer and Owen have complicated the picture by claiming that the castle mound at Llanarmon was surrounded by an ancient park (Park Creigiog) which was part of the lord's demesne when this was a medieval manor, but in the Welsh period that preceded it, it would have been the *maerdref*.

### **2016-17 Survey**

- 3.5. The work in 2016-17 comprised gaining permissions for access for this and subsequent phases of work, together with a rapid topographical survey, including recording two transects across the motte. The survey, and in particular the profiles, have demonstrated the extent to which the motte has been subject to later stone quarrying. It is clear from this that Tomen y Faerdre could have supported a more substantial structure than that at Tomen y Rhodwydd.
- 3.6. The initial survey has indicated that considerable improvements to the visibility of the site would be achievable with a programme of groundwork/vegetation clearance over period of at least 4 days, the results being comparable with those at Tomen y Rhodwydd. It is hoped that a single day's input from Coleg Cambrian (Llysfasi) would be sufficient to remove the semi-mature and dense vegetation. Volunteer groups such as the Llanarmon-yn-Iâl Conservation Society have already expressed an interest in helping with the follow-on brash cutting/burning and overall clearance. Clwydian AONB have also indicated that there is additional grant-aid funding available for 2017/18 which would facilitate further support with ground improvements and perhaps a similar Interpretation Plan and improved public access in line with the work at Tomen y Rhodwydd.



Fig. 16 The quarried face of Tomen y Faerdre, viewed from the north. Photo CPAT 4318-0007



Fig. 17 Tomen y Faerdre, viewed from the south. Photo CPAT 4318-0022

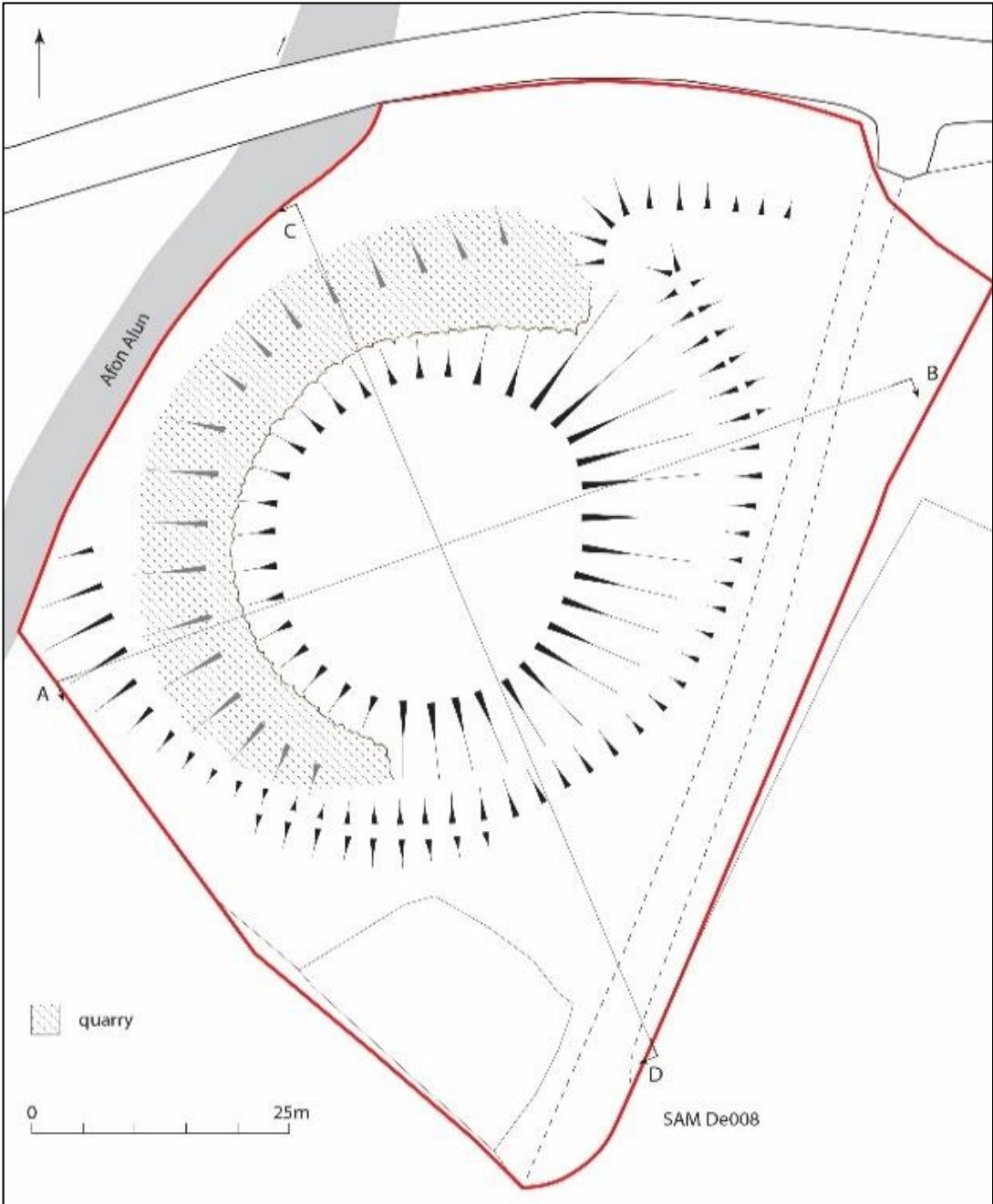


Fig. 18 Plan of Tomen y Faerdre showing location of 2017 surveyed profiles (A-B and C-D).

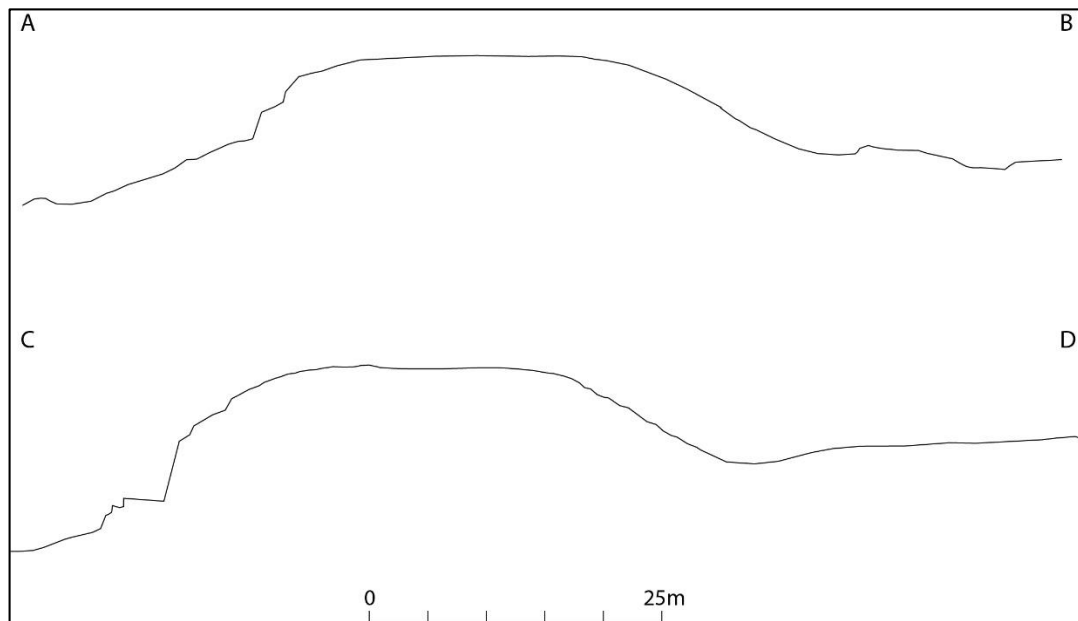


Fig. 19 Profiles of Tomen y Faerdre.

## 4 Tomen y Rhodwydd

- 4.1. Following on from the extensive vegetation clearance carried out in March 2016, the conservation work at Tomen y Rhodwydd (SAM De 018; PRN 100932) continued at a pace throughout April and May 2017 with volunteer parties working with the author to clear the remainder of the vegetation from the motte and remove the piles of stacked wood from the outlying scheduled areas of the bailey.
- 4.2. Overall, the site is already beginning to stabilise and recover but a recent site visit (March 2017) has noted that the badger sett erosion continues to gather momentum literally 'undermining' the integrity of the motte. Satellite setts, originally believed to have fallen dormant, are now once again active.
- 4.3. The conservation work continued on into the autumn of 2016 with the principal enclosure and hedgeline clearance, and replacement fencing, accompanying field-gates and public access gates all being installed by professional contractors. This programme of work, the results of which have further improved the overall view and setting of the monument, has been achieved with grant aid from the Clwydian Range (AONB) Sustainability Fund (see Figs 20-21).
- 4.4. AONB funded work has also continued on the on-site interpretation panels. The informative reconstruction drawings of the castle, designed to enhance further the visitor experience, are nearing completion following months of critical appreciation and amendment based on a combination of professional review and our fieldwork results. A sample of the development towards refining the final interpretation panels is provided in Fig. 21 (courtesy of Phil Kenning, March 2017). Ultimately it is hoped that at some point in 2017 a Visitor Open Day will be arranged to officially unveil and open Tomen y Rhodwydd to permissive public access.

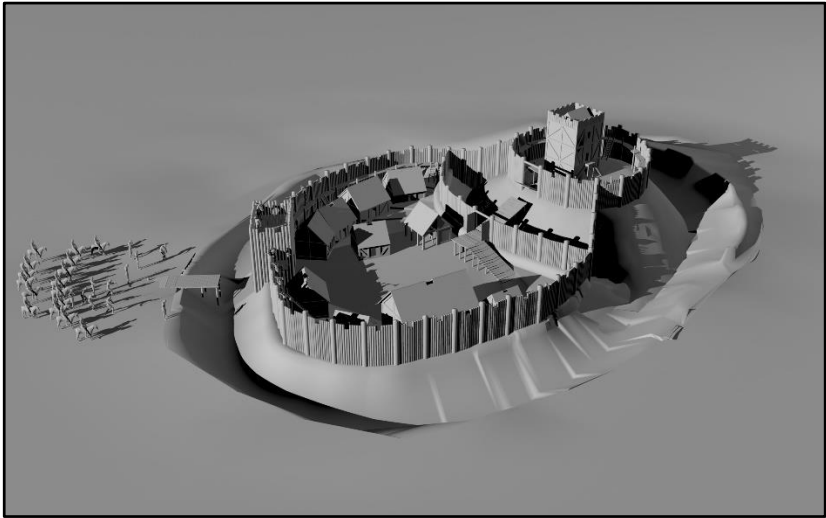


Fig. 20 Recent improvements to Tomen y Rhodwydd funded by the Clwydian Range AONB Sustainability Fund. Photo CPAT 4320-0004



Fig. 21 Recent improvements to Tomen y Rhodwydd funded by the Clwydian Range AONB Sustainability Fund. Photo CPAT 4320-0020





Figs 22 CAD, pencil and final watercolour images of Tomen y Rhodwydd (courtesy of Phil Kenning and Clwydian AONB)

## 5 Conclusions

- 5.1. From its inception in 2013-14 the NEWCA project has continued to develop, forging close links with local groups and educational institutions, particularly Coleg Cambria, Glyndŵr University and Chester University. Other important collaborations have been undertaken with the Clwydian Range AONB, specifically at Tomen y Rhodwydd.
- 5.2. The focus of this year's work has been a continuation of the work initiated in the previous year at Llys Edwin. Additional funding from Cadw, as a reallocation of resources from CPAT's Community Archaeology budget, has enabled an expansion of the project at Llys Edwin which included excavations within the moated site, geophysical survey and an open day. The excavation provided an ideal opportunity for local students to be trained in basic archaeological techniques, as well as relating to studies in other disciplines such as history, forensics, biodiversity and horticulture.
- 5.3. The current excavations revealed part of the south-east wall of the hall, which had originally been uncovered in the 1930s, allowing a better comparison to be made between the recent topographical survey and plan of Glenn's excavations. The majority of deposits investigated consisted of various spreads of excavation backfill, from which it was clear that the earlier investigations were not focused on the retrieval of artefactual evidence, the deposits containing significant quantities of pottery, glass, metalwork and building materials. The results provide a good base for further, targeted work in 2017-18 which it is hoped will be able to identify surviving medieval archaeology and determine the extent to which features were investigated by Glenn.
- 5.4. At Tomen y Rhodwydd the project was again involved with vegetation clearance, completing the work within the scheduled area which has enhanced greatly the visibility of the monument and enabled visitors to better appreciate the earthworks. Similar work is planned for nearby Tomen y Faerdre in 2017-18, with an initial phase of work during the current year focusing on obtaining permissions and conducting a preliminary topographical survey.
- 5.5. The community outreach element of the project has enabled many people to access the sites and participate in archaeological and conservation work. With the project expanding across multiple sites located at opposite ends of the North-east Wales region, participants were drawn from a wide demographic range, and the level of interest generated suggests that further community-based archaeological projects will be sustainable in future years.

## 6 Acknowledgements

- 6.1. The excavation, survey and conservation fieldwork was coordinated by Ian Grant with assistance from Richard Hankinson (Geophysics) and Ian Davies (excavation). Post-excavation assessment and reporting has been undertaken by Ian Grant and Richard Hankinson and Nigel Jones. CPAT would like to thank Will Davies, Fiona Grant and Kate Roberts (Cadw); Fiona Gale (Denbighshire County Archaeologist); Kathleen Carroll and Sian Laws (Natural Environment and Agriculture Team); Ceri Lloyd, AONB Sustainable Development Officer; Sarah Pevely and Sophie Fish, Flintshire Archives and David Shiel, Denbighshire Countryside Services.

- 6.2. The author would also like to thank the following for their assistance with coordinating the numerous students who took part in the fieldwork: Sue Price, Andy White and Tim Jenner, Coleg Cambria, Dr David Skydmore, Richard Lewis, Dennis Powell, Pip Francis, Sam Noon, Kathryn Ellis, Pete Bolton and Amy Rattenbury, Glyndŵr University; Dr Caroline Pudney and Professor Howard Williams, Chester University and specifically student Matt Thomas for his dedicated work on the photogrammetric plans of Llys Edwin . Thanks are also due to our core team of field volunteers from numerous local interest groups. Finally, I would like to thank the landowners and tenants; Mr Ieuan Williams (Tomen y Rhodwydd), Mr Geraint Jones (Tomen y Faerdre) and Glyndŵr University and Coleg Cambria (Llys Edwin), for their continuing support and interest in the project and permission to undertake the site work.

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## Appendix 1: Summary of Community Participation

### Llys Edwin, Tomen y Faerdre and Tomen y Rhodwydd

GROUP	Fieldwork Participants
CPAT	3
Cwmwd Iâl Re-enactment Society (conservation/fieldwork and re-enactment on the Open Day)	10
Clwydian Range Archaeology Group	4
Caer Alyn Archaeology History Project	2
Conservation Society, Llanarmon (fieldwork)	4
Corwen and Dee Valley Archaeological Society	1
Coleg Cambria Llysfasi/Northop	7
Glyndwr University (Northop)	7
Glyndwr University (Wrexham)	15
Liverpool University	3
Chester University	4
Denbighshire Countryside Services volunteers	2
University of Third Age (Flint Branch) (Llys Edwin presentation 2017)	35
Open Day (general public)	42

Fig. 23 The results of the 2014-15 and 2015-16 surveys of Llys Edwin, showing erosion and management issues and the location of Trench A

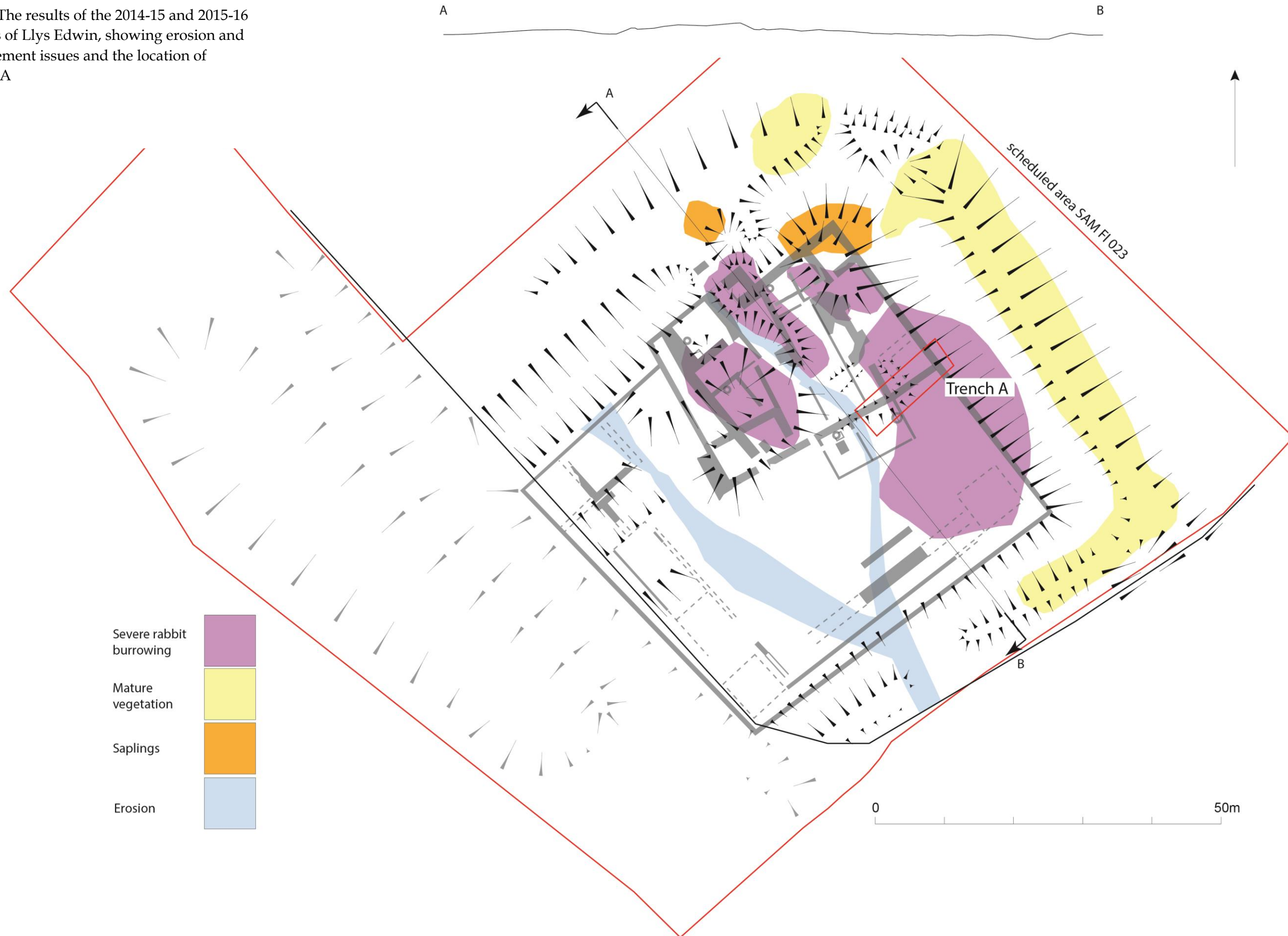


Fig. 24 The results of the 2014-15 and 2015-16 surveys of Llys Edwin, showing an interpretation of the results from the 1931 excavations and the location of the 2016 excavation (Trench A)

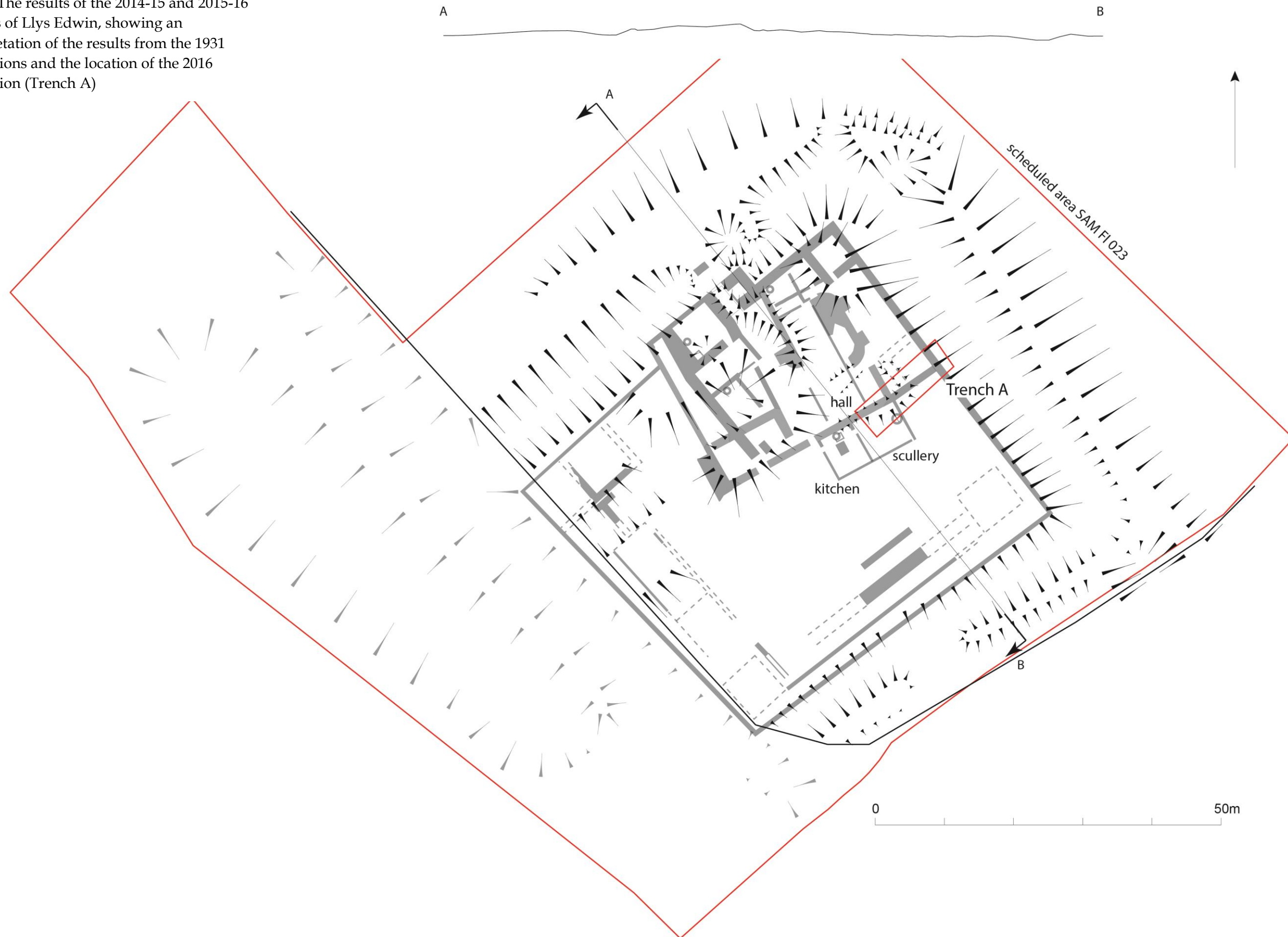


Fig. 25 Photogrammetric plan and drawn section of Trench A (Llys Edwin 2016).

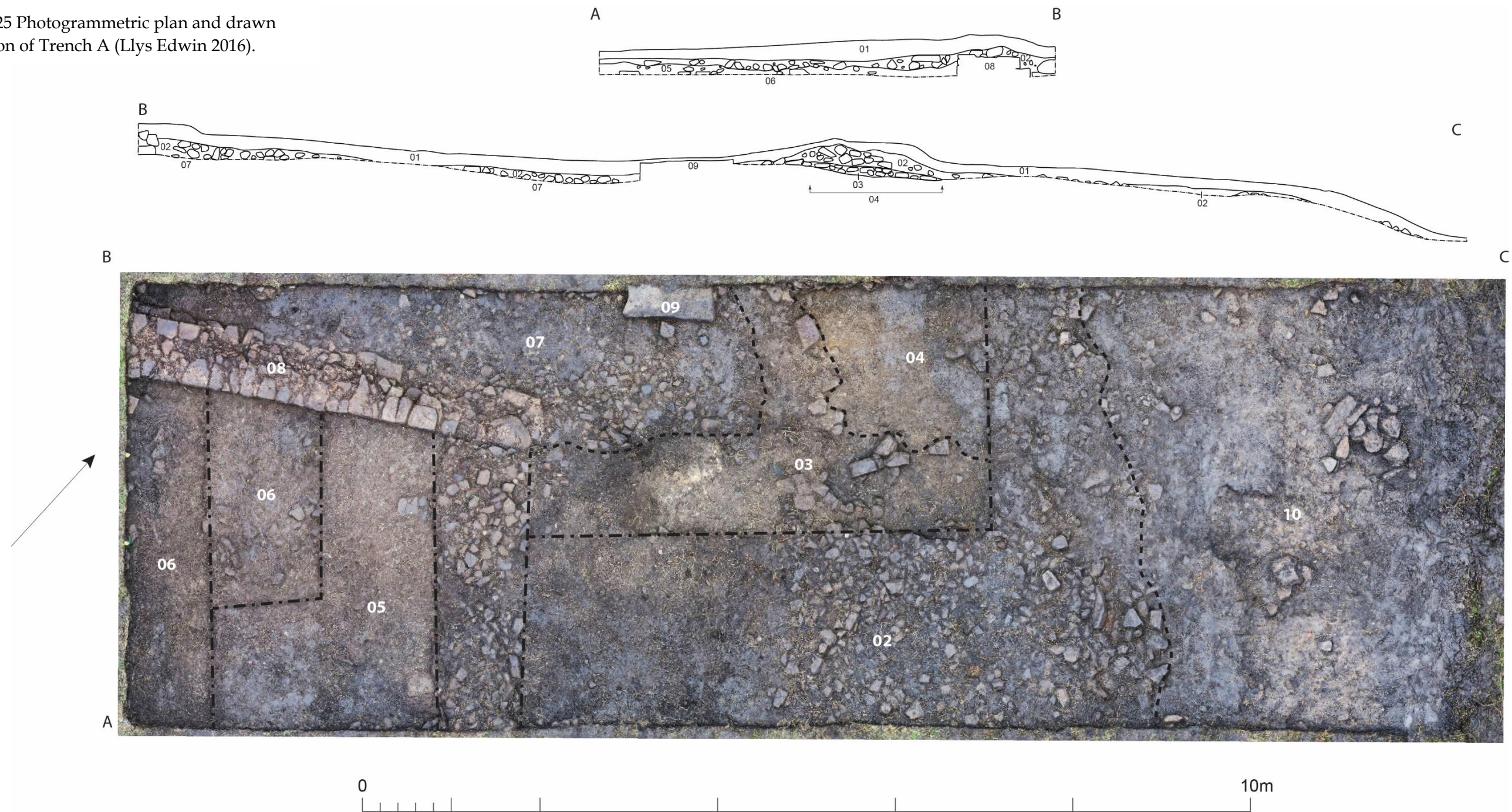


Fig. 26 Llys Edwin earthworks and  
geophysical survey results 2016

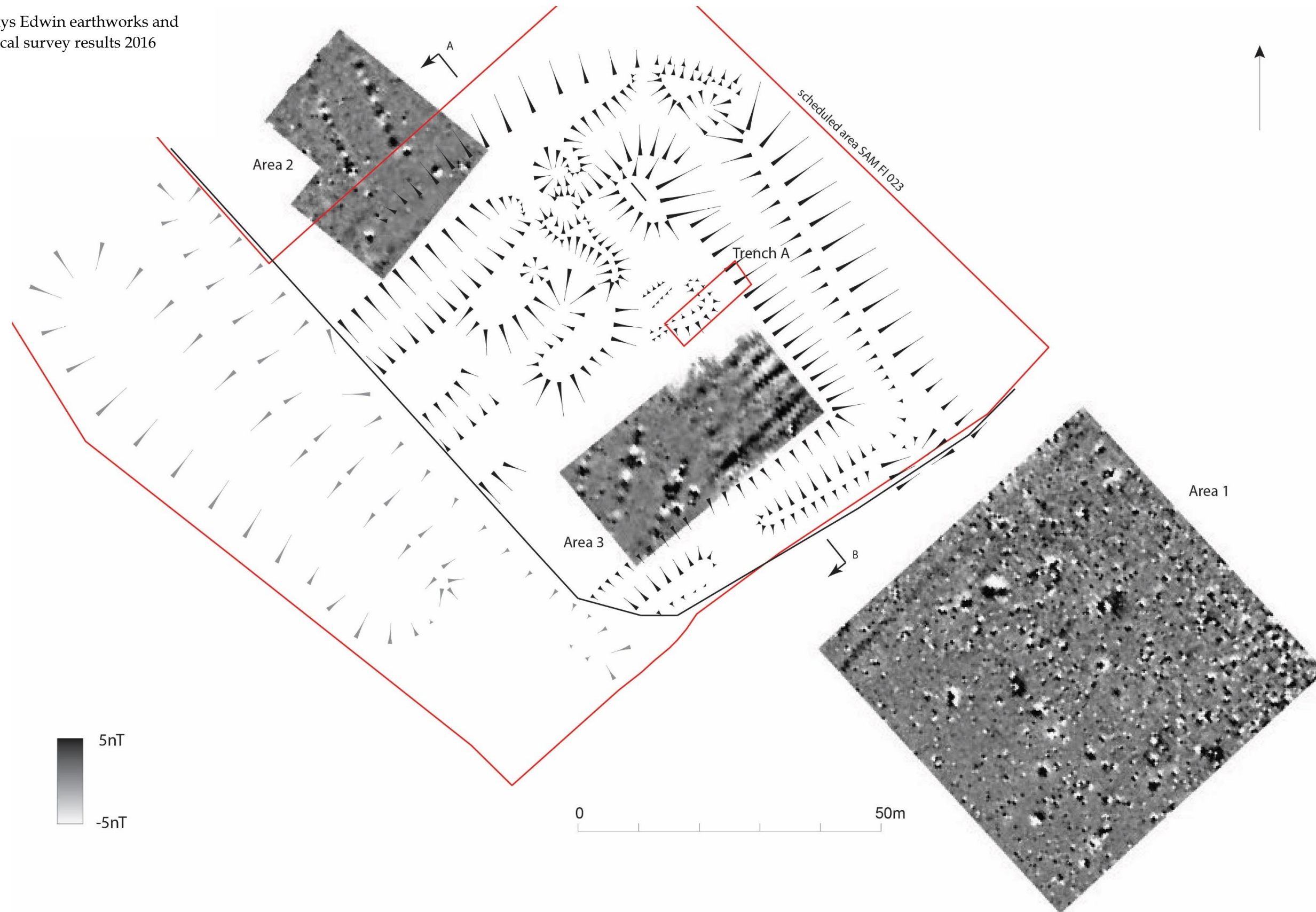




Fig. 27 Interpretation of Llys Edwin geophysical survey results

