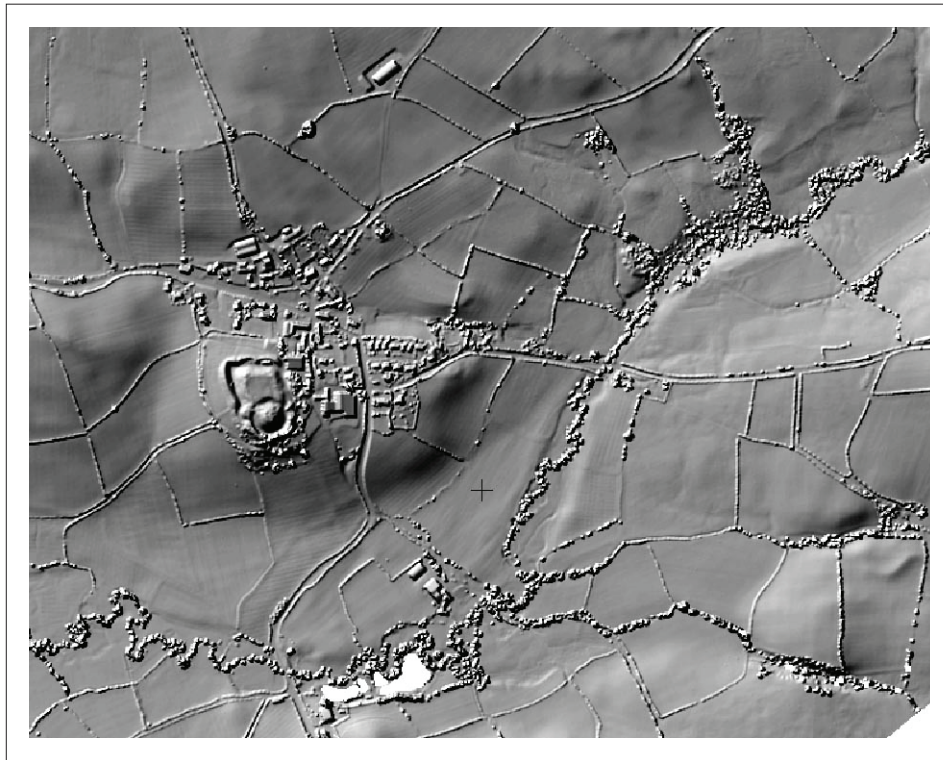


Archaeology Wales

1198 Battle of Painscastle Painscastle, Powys

Battlefield Survey



By
Chris E Smith BA (Hons) MA MIFA

Report No. 1111

Prepared for:



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



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Prepared For: RCAHMW

Edited by:

Signed:

Position:

Date:

Authorised by:

Signed:

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By

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Crynodeb Anhechnegol

Mae'r adroddiad yma, ar gyfer Comisiwn Brenhinol Henebion Cymru (CBHC), yn crynhoi a chyflwyno canlyniadau'r gwaith arolygu diweddaraf ar faes brwydr dybiedig Castell Paen (1198), Powys. Y mae'r astudiaeth yn rhan o ymchwiliad mwy eang sy'n cynnwys tri o feysydd brwydrau Cymru. Amcan y gwaith yw hel tystiolaeth ynglŷn â maint a lleoliad phob safle ar gyfer cofrestr awgrymedig Llywodraeth Cymru o Feysydd Brwydrau Hanesyddol Cymru.

Roedd y gwaith yng Nghastell Paen yn cynnwys archwilio arolygon LiDAR, tri arolwg geoffiseg gwrthedd, arolwg datgelydd metel, yn ogystal â chloddio tair ffos brawf. Ni wnaeth y gwaith arolygu LiDAR yn y tri chae i'r de a dwyrain o Fferm Rhydlydan ddatgelu unrhyw nodweddion yn gysylltiedig â'r frwydr. Nodweddion daearegol naturiol a ddatgelwyd gan yr arolwg gwrthedd yn yr un safleoedd. Er bod yr arolwg datgelydd metel wedi canfod arteffactau canol oesol nid oedd yn bosib eu cysylltu â'r frwydr. Cloddiwyd tair ffos yn targedu nodweddion wedi eu nodi ar arolygon gwrthedd o'r gorffennol ond daeareg naturiol yn unig a dadorchuddiwyd. Nid oedd unrhyw arteffactau canol oesol o fewn y ffosydd yma.

Non-Technical Summary

This report draws upon the results gained by a second phase of survey work undertaken at the reputed site of the 1198 Battle of Painscastle, Painscastle, Powys, for The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW). The work forms part of a larger investigation into three battlefield sites, the objectives of which are to gather evidence that will verify and inform the location and extent of Welsh battlefields and to inform the consideration of each site for inclusion on the Welsh Government proposed Register of Historic Battlefields in Wales.

The work undertaken at Painscastle comprised analysis of LiDAR data, geophysical resistivity surveys, a metal detector survey and the excavation of three evaluation trenches. The LiDAR, the geophysical survey and the metal detector survey examined three fields located to the south and east of Rhydlydan Farm. The LiDAR did not reveal any features identifiable with the 1198 battle, whilst the geophysical surveys revealed only features of natural origin. The metal detector survey identified items of medieval date, but none of these could be linked with the 1198 battle. The three evaluation trenches were located in a separate field in order to investigate features identified by a geophysical survey undertaken as part of the earlier phase of investigations. However, this work was also largely negative, identifying only natural, geological, features and recovering finds that were not medieval in date.

1 Introduction

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 In March 2013 Archaeology Wales carried out a series of archaeological investigations south of Painscastle, Powys, NGR SO 16642 46118 (Fig 1).
- 1.1.2 The work was carried out at the request of Louise Barker of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (Henceforth – The Commission) and was funded by the Welsh Government. It formed part of a series of on-going battlefield surveys undertaken by Archaeology Wales Ltd on behalf of The Commission, the primary objective of which is to inform the consideration of each battlefield site for inclusion on a proposed Battlefields Register for Wales.
- 1.1.3 The aim of the work was to further define the extent of the battlefield. To this end three fields located to the south and east of Rhydlydan Farm were examined using LiDAR data, geophysical resistivity surveys and metal detector surveys, and features identified in a separate area surveyed in 2012 were investigated by the excavation of three evaluation trenches (Figs 1 & 2).

2 Aims & Objectives

2.1 Outline Requirements

- 2.1.1 The objective of the work at each site is to gather evidence that will help verify and inform the location, extent and archaeological character of the associated battlefield. The fundamental criterion is that in order for a battlefield to be protected, and for change to be managed, its location and extent must be confidently identified. In addition, the battlefield must meet at least one of the following three criteria:
- 2.1.2 **Be associated with historical events or figures of national importance** (i.e. military innovations, direct associations with nationally important figures or events and whether the engagement played a key role in a campaign); and/or
- 2.1.3 **Have significant physical remains and/or archaeological potential** (i.e. include natural or constructed physical features at the time of the engagement, evidence from the engagement or other related buried archaeological evidence); and/or
- 2.1.4 **Have a clear landscape context that allows the events of the battle to be understood or interpreted** (i.e. the initial area of deployment and fighting, wider landscape incorporating earthworks, skirmishes, camps, burial, line of advance and retreat, and detached elements such as memorials)

2.2 2013 Phase of Work

2.2.1 The main aim of the second, 2012, phase of work was to further define areas around Rhydlydan, south of Painscastle, which could be associated with the 1198 battle (Fig 2).

2.2.2 This was to be achieved by:

- Undertaking further metal detector surveys adjacent to Rhydlydan farm
- Undertaking geophysical surveys in the fields adjacent to Rhydlydan farm
- Examination of previously supplied LiDAR data for the area around Rhydlydan
- Excavating evaluation trenches in areas where possible features were identified during a geophysical survey undertaken as part of the 2012 investigations.

2.3 Geology and topography

2.3.1 The underlying solid geology of the Pilleth area is primarily made up of the undifferentiated Ludlow Rocks series, composed of mudstone, siltstone and sandstone deposits (British Geological Survey, 2001).

2.3.2 The soils in this area consist of the typical brown earths of the DENBIGH 1 series (541j) comprising well-drained fine loamy and silty soils overlying Palaeozoic slaty mudstone and siltstone.

2.3.3 The area surrounding the village of Painscastle is dominated by a motte and bailey fortification constructed on the top of a natural ridge. The motte has a clear 360° panorama of the landscape.

2.3.4 Painscastle is located on the southern facing slope of a valley, at the bottom of which runs the Bachawy, a small tributary stream of the river Wye. The bottom of the river valley is located approximately at 227m OD as compared to the motte and bailey on the higher ground to the north, located at 274m OD.

2.3.5 The wider landscape surrounding the site of Painscastle is characterised by sparsely populated, tree-less upland. The Begwns to the south rise to 415m OD whilst Llanbedr hill to the north rises to 465m OD.

2.4 Archaeological and Historical Background

2.4.1 A complete description of the Battle of Painscastle is contained within the pilot study undertaken by Border Archaeology (2009). The main events, however, can be summarised as follows:

2.4.2 The precise site of the battle of Painscastle is unclear but it is presumed to have been situated somewhere in the immediate vicinity of the castle (NGR SO 166 462). The OS 1:25000 map marks the site of the battle in a field situated immediately to the south-west of the scheduled earthworks of the castle, while the historian P. Remfry mentions that ‘even today bones of the fallen are uncovered during ploughing or road widening operations to the south of the castle’.

- 2.4.3 The battle of Painscastle should be viewed in the context of the protracted struggle for control over the Central Marches (comprising the cantrefs of Elfael, Cedewain and Maelienydd) between the Anglo Norman Marcher lords (in particular the families of Mortimer and de Braose) and the native Welsh princes, which appears to have intensified significantly following the death of the powerful Welsh lord of Deheubarth, Rhys ap Gruffydd, in April 1197. The previous year, the lord Rhys had led a successful campaign in Elfael in response to the capture of Cymaron Castle by Roger Mortimer in 1195. He defeated the Mortimers in a pitched battle near New Radnor and sacked the town and castle, as well as briefly capturing the castle of Painscastle. The death of the lord Rhys resulted in a political vacuum and an absence of strong leadership among the Welsh of the central Marches, a situation that was exploited not only by the Marcher lords, but also by other Welsh princes, in particular Gwenwynwyn, who had succeeded his father Owain Cyfeiliog as ruler of southern Powys.
- 2.4.4 In view of Gwenwynwyn's aggressive policy of territorial expansion, it was probably inevitable that he would attempt to assert his authority over the *cantrefs* of the central Marches, as their ruling dynasties were seemingly weak and engulfed in internecine conflicts, particularly following the death not only of the lord Rhys but also Maelgwn ap Cadwallon, lord of Maelienydd in the same year.
- 2.4.5 Several accounts of the events prior to the battle are contained in the 'D' text of the *Annales Cambriae* and the Peniarth MS. 20 and Red Book of Hergest texts of the *Brut y Tywysogion*, which all appear to be derived from a common source. The entry *sub anno* 1198 describes how 'during this year Gwenwynwyn proposed to restore the Welsh to their former dignity and restore their boundaries to their rightful owners, which had been lost by them through the multitude of their sins; and around the feast of St Mary Magdalene assembled a great army, in undertaking this task supported by all the princes of Wales. And having assembled together, they laid siege to Pain's Castle for three weeks with great exhortations of wrath, although in their struggle not having recourse to their machines of war (ie. siege engines)'.
- 2.4.6 It would appear that Gwenwynwyn assembled a substantial army around July 22nd, 1198 and then marched directly on the castle of Painscastle (*Castellum Paen*) which he then proceeded to besiege for three weeks. The castle was of key importance, controlling the strategically important Bachawy valley, one of the principal gateways between England and central Wales, and functioned as the *caput* or administrative centre of a lordship encompassing the native Welsh *commote* of Elfael Is Mynydd (Lower Elfael).
- 2.4.7 The Welsh chronicle sources all draw attention to the size of Gwenwynwyn's forces and, significantly, emphasize his poor preparations and in particular his failure to bring the necessary siege engines to besiege the castle. The 'D' text of the *Annales* is particularly sharp in its criticism of Gwenwynwyn's preparations in this respect, remarking acidly that 'in fact they were ignorant and not prepared for the wretched outcome of their undertaking'.
- 2.4.8 According to the 'D' text of the *Annales Cambriae*, the English were initially 'struck with terror' on learning of Gwenwynwyn's attack and promptly released Gruffydd ap

Rhys (son of the lord Rhys) whom Gwenwynwyn had surrendered into English hands a year earlier, apparently to persuade Gwenwynwyn or his allies to make peace and abandon the siege, although it may simply have been a delaying tactic in order to enable a sufficiently large army to be raised to relieve Painscastle. The military preparations of the English are briefly described by the contemporary English annalist Roger of Howden, who relates how Geoffrey fitz Peter, Hubert Walter's successor as Justiciar of England 'on assembling a large army proceeded to Wales to succour the people of William de Braose, whom Gwenwynwyn, the brother of Cadwallon, had besieged in Matilda's Castle (ie. Painscastle)'.

- 2.4.9 Of particular significance is Gerald of Wales's description of the *locale*, relating how 'it happened that the Welsh had besieged Painscastle (*Castellum Pagani*) recently built in Elfael, a great multitude of the English army had been assembled at Hay and from around those parts'. From Gerald's account several key points can be gleaned, firstly that Geoffrey fitz Peter mustered his forces at Hay (probably advancing along the Wye valley westwards from Hereford) and that a significant proportion of the army was recruited from the locality.
- 2.4.10 Ralph de Diceto's contemporary account provides a specific date for the battle, namely October 13th, 1198 (the feast of St Hippolytus) and is the only source to describe the respective order of battle for the English and Welsh forces. He describes how 'in the first battalion (*caterva*) of the Welsh only infantry were assembled, in the second, infantry and cavalry, in the third only cavalry. The first battalion of the English solely consisted of infantry, in the second only cavalry while the third battalion comprised the remaining strength of the army (*totum robur exercitus*)'.
- 2.4.11 It is unclear whether this represents an accurate depiction of the respective formations of the English and Welsh forces, however Ralph had close contacts with the royal administration (including Hubert Walter Archbishop of Canterbury), which could have provided him with reasonably reliable information on the engagement. Ralph then describes how 'at the first onslaught the Welsh turned tail, their camp being plundered; many were captured and many more killed, it is said, even to the number of three thousand'.
- 2.4.12 Roger of Howden states that 'although the Welsh in arms were very numerous, still not being able to make resistance to the forces of the English, they were put to flight, and throwing away their arms, that, being less burdened, they might move more swiftly, there were slain more than 3700 of them, besides those who were captured and those who being fatally wounded escaped from the field'.
- 2.4.13 The 'D' text of the *Annales Cambriae* states that the English forces 'in the first onslaught drove the miserable people into flight, capturing some and slitting the throats of others as sheep; and so this unheard of massacre and unaccustomed killing took place'. The *Annales* and the *Brut* list the Welsh leaders killed during the battle, consisting of Anarawd ap Einion, Owain Cascob ap Cadwallon, Rhiryd ap Iestyn and Robert ap Hywel.
- 2.4.14 The casualties suffered by the English forces appear to have been remarkably light in view of the substantial size of the armies involved. The account of Ralph of Howden

relates how ‘on the side of the English, only one person was killed, being accidentally wounded by an arrow incautiously aimed by one of his companions’. This might well be regarded as a slightly absurd exaggeration of the limited casualties suffered by the English forces, however a similar statement occurs in a letter written by Hubert Walter Archbishop of Canterbury to Gerald of Wales shortly after the battle, in which he remarks that ‘in the encounter at that place neither spear nor bow had power to wound to death one man of all our host’.

- 2.4.15 The site of the battle is placed by both the English and Welsh chronicle sources in the vicinity the castle of Painscastle, although they do not state precisely where the engagement took place in relation to the castle itself. Later evidence of place names near to the castle, derived from deeds, manorial records and historic mapping is extremely limited in scope.
- 2.4.16 The only authority to indicate a probable location for the main scene of battle is P. Remfry, who states that ‘even today bones of the fallen are uncovered during ploughing or road widening operations to the south of the castle’, although unfortunately there appears to be no archaeological record of these finds. In view of Gerald of Wales’s testimony that the English forces mustered at Hay, it would certainly appear logical to assume that the English approached from the south east, from Hay via Clyro and crossing the Afon Bachawy at Rhyd-lydan. The ford at Rhyd-lydan was suggested by Dawson as a possible battle site, referring to the previous discovery of ‘an ancient sword and cannon ball’ at the ford, which he interpreted as ‘relics of some of the great battles that raged round Painscastle’.

3 Methodology

3.1 LiDAR Data Analysis

- 3.1.1 LiDAR data, at a resolution of 2m, was analysed by Archaeology Wales Ltd. Examination of the surface map was undertaken using both digital shadow models and digital terrain models.

3.2 Geophysical Resistivity Surveys

- 3.2.1 Three geophysical surveys, using an RM15 resistivity meter, were undertaken at Painscastle. The first (field 1) was undertaken south of the trout pools at Rhydlydan whilst the second (field 2) was undertaken in the field south of the Rhydlydan farm. The third was located in field 3 to the south and east of the previous survey areas (Fig 2). The geophysical survey was undertaken by Chris E Smith (MifA) and Dr Neil Phillips (Archaeological Perspectives and Analysis Consultancy – Henceforth APAC).
- 3.2.2 The field 1 survey measured 100m by 40m. The field 2 survey measured 100m by 60m and the field 3 survey measure 60m by 60m. Areas which were very wet (standing water) or particularly steep were avoided. The grids were laid out using a Topcon GTS total station and then tied into surrounding field boundaries.

- 3.2.3 All geophysical survey data was downloaded into ArcheoSurveyor and collated as ‘.CMP’ files for processing. Further processing was carried out using the Snuffler software package designed by Sussex Archaeology. All total station files for survey location were downloaded into AutoCAD as DXF files.
- 3.2.4 All works were undertaken in accordance with the IfA’s *Standards and Guidance: for a geophysical survey* (2011) and current Health and Safety legislation.

3.3 Metal Detector Surveys

- 3.3.1 The detailed metal detector surveys were undertaken by Chris E Smith with help from local volunteers and members of local metal detecting clubs. Areas subject to survey comprised the same fields as the geophysical survey (Fig 2).
- 3.3.2 Each field was divided into transects of equal width and marked with canes to ensure coverage. Each transect was assigned to a metal detectorist who scanned the area twice, once going up the field and once going down.
- 3.3.3 All metal detectors were set to ‘All Metal’ mode so as to include responses from ferrous objects.
- 3.3.4 When a find was located it was placed *in situ* within a finds bag with a marker flag placed next to it. A waterproof label was then placed in the bag with the depth of the find marked on it in indelible ink. Subsequently, the finds were collected by the supervising archaeologist. Each find was labelled with an individual find number and each numbered findspot was located using a Topcon GTS 725 total station.
- 3.3.5 The grid coordinates from each findspot were entered into an excel spreadsheet. This detailed all the finds, their descriptions, dates and locations. The total station survey was overlaid onto a map to show the distribution of the finds across each assessment area.
- 3.3.6 Finds that were clearly identifiable in the field as being of 20th – 21st century in date (agricultural/machinery/litter) were not retained and do not form part of the project archive. These were removed from site and discarded away from the survey area.

3.4 Evaluation Trenching

- 3.4.1 Three evaluation trenches, each measuring 20.0m by 1.6m, were excavated in areas that had been subject to geophysical survey during the 2012 phase of investigations (Fig 3). Initial removal of overburden, topsoil and subsoil deposits was undertaken by mechanical excavator (JCB 3CX) under close archaeological supervision. Reinstatement was also undertaken by mechanical excavator under close supervision. Post-backfill record photographs were taken.
- 3.4.2 All exposed areas were subsequently cleaned by hand by suitably qualified AW staff.
- 3.4.3 All areas were photographed using high resolution (14 Mega Pixels) digital cameras.
- 3.4.4 All areas were scanned with a metal detector before the excavation took place. All spoil heaps and exposed surfaces were also scanned.

- 3.4.5 Site drawings were on drafting film using recognised conventions and scales (1:10, 1:20, 1:50) as appropriate.
- 3.4.6 All works were undertaken in accordance with the IfA's *Standards and Guidance: for an archaeological evaluation* (revised 2011) and current Health and Safety legislation.

4 LiDAR Data Analysis

4.1 Digital Shadow Model (Fig 4)

- 4.1.1 The DSM LiDAR data, analysed at 2m resolution, shows the three fields to the south and west of Rhydlydan Farm in good detail. Natural geological ridges can be identified in the topography of all three fields, but no further features are visible.

4.2 Digital Terrain Model (Fig 5)

- 4.2.1 The DTM LiDAR data, analysed at 2m resolution, shows the three fields to the south and east of Rhydlydan Farm in good detail, but again no features of archaeological significance can be identified.

4.3 LiDAR Summary

- 4.3.1 The analysis of the LiDAR data has identified natural geological ridges within the three fields of the assessment area. However, with the exception of the field boundaries, no features of anthropomorphic origin were noted.

5 Geophysical Survey Results

- 5.1.1 Geophysical surveys of the three fields in the south and east took place in an attempt to locate graves similar to those associated with the skeletons that local farmers found next to Rhydlydan farm in the 1980s. This followed survey work that had already been undertaken as part of the 2012 investigations.
- 5.1.2 The survey results are shown in figures 6 & 7.
- 5.1.3 The survey area in field 1, to the south of the trout pools, measured 100m by 40m. The area is very flat and is likely to represent an area that flooded in the past. It is at the bottom of the valley and adjacent to the Afon Bachawy. The survey was positioned in the eastern half of the field. A steep slope, a leat and overhead power lines in the western half of the field, rendering this area unsuitable for survey.
- 5.1.4 No features of archaeological interest can be identified on the processed survey plot. Large variations between the high and low readings produced by the survey probably relate to variations in the underlying geology.

- 5.1.5 The survey area in field 2, to the south of Rhydlydan Farm, measured 80m by 80m. The area comprised a roughly flat plateau, with a steeper slope nearer to the eastern edge of the field.
- 5.1.6 Again, no features of archaeological interest can be identified on the processed survey plot. Large variations between high and low readings are again evident, however, probably a result of variations in the underlying geology.
- 5.1.7 The survey in field 3, south and west of the previous surveys, measured 60m by 60m. This survey was undertaken in particularly wet conditions. Large areas of standing water defined areas that had to be avoided.
- 5.1.8 A small linear feature is located on the plot, which coincides with the route of the boundary located at the southern edge of the field. Again, large variations in readings are shown that probably represent variations in the natural geology. No features of archaeological significance were noted.

5.2 Geophysical Survey Summary

- 5.2.1 The geophysical surveys undertaken in fields 1-3 have shown no features of anthropomorphic origin. Large variations in the readings appear to relate to undulations and variations in the underlying geology. This corresponds to the ridge observed on the LiDAR data (Figs 4 & 5).

6 Metal Detector Survey Results

6.1 Ground and Weather Conditions

- 6.1.1 The metal detector surveys at Painscastle were undertaken between periods of heavy snow, rain and frost. The ground was very wet in places.
- 6.1.2 Survey locations and results are shown in figures 8-10.
- 6.1.3 Contamination by modern materials was very low in all three areas.

6.2 Field 1

- 6.2.1 Survey in the field immediately to the south of the trout pools revealed a total of 47 finds, two of which were medieval. The vast majority of the finds from field 1 were post-medieval in date. The medieval finds consisted of a small loom weight and a fragment of a horseshoe.

6.3 Field 2

- 6.3.1 Survey in the field immediately to the south of Rhydlydan Farm, adjacent to the Clyro road, revealed a total of 43 finds, two of which were medieval. The vast majority of the items from field 2 were either unidentifiable corroded lumps or post-medieval finds. The medieval finds consisted of a small pan weight and a bronze vessel leg.

6.4 Field 3

- 6.4.1 Field 3 revealed only 17 finds, four of which were medieval. Again the majority of finds from the area were post-medieval in date. The medieval finds comprised two small loom weights and two small lead pot mends.

6.5 Metal Detector Survey Summary

- 6.5.1 A total of 107 finds were located across the three surveyed areas. Whilst the vast majority of these were clearly of later, post-medieval, date, eight medieval finds were recovered.
- 6.5.2 With the possible exception of a horseshoe fragment, all of the medieval items were probably domestic in nature. Therefore none are unlikely to relate to the 1198 battle.
- 6.5.3 No clear pattern could be distinguished in the distribution of the medieval material.

7 Field Evaluation Results

7.1 Trenches 1-3

- 7.1.1 Excavation of the evaluation trenches was undertaken, at the landowner's request, after a period of dry weather to minimise the damage to his field. Trenches 1-3, each measuring 20m in length, were positioned (fig 3) so that they overlay features identified during the geophysical survey undertaken in 2012 (Smith 2012).
- 7.1.2 Trench 1 (Plates 1-4), the most northerly of the trenches, was aligned north east to south west and positioned to investigate an apparent rectilinear feature identified in 2012 (Fig 11).
- 7.1.3 Removal of turf and topsoil was carried out by mechanical excavator after the area had been scanned by a metal detector. All spoil and exposed areas were similarly scanned.
- 7.1.4 At a depth of 0.2m, solid bedrock protrusions and areas of loose, frost shattered, bedrock were evident. Located between the areas of rock were bands of compact, mid to light brown, clay. Further exploratory excavation concluded that the clay and the bedrock were both natural deposits, and it was their relative positioning that had produced the object of rectilinear appearance on the geophysical survey. No features of anthropomorphic origin were noted within the trench. Various finds of modern date, including nails and a Victorian penny, were made by the metal detector within the topsoil material.
- 7.1.5 Trench 2 (Plates 5-8), located to the south of trench 1, was positioned so as to investigate a further rectilinear feature, as well as an area of low resistance, identified on the previously undertaken geophysical survey. Removal of turf and topsoil revealed a mid-brown silt clay subsoil with infrequent small stone inclusions. Removal of the subsoil horizon revealed, at a depth of between 0.4 and 0.5m, a compacted pale orange clay deposit. This was interpreted as the natural clay. Evidence of banding was

observed within the natural clay horizon, again most likely the anomaly detected by the geophysical survey. No finds or features of archaeological interest were identified.

- 7.1.6 Trench 3, the furthest west of the three evaluation trenches, was positioned so as to investigate a large area of mixed, low resistance, signals identified during the 2012 survey. Removal of turf and topsoil revealed a mid-brown silty subsoil. Subsequent removal of the subsoil horizon revealed, again at a depth of between 0.4m and 0.5m, a natural clay and gravel horizon. No finds or features of archaeological interest were identified.

7.2 Field Evaluation Summary

- 7.2.1 The evaluation trenches showed that the results obtained from the 2012 survey were disrupted by the presence of geological variations located across the area at relatively shallow depths.
- 7.2.2 All of the trenches showed variations in the natural deposits across their length. None of them revealed finds or features of archaeological interest.

8 Finds

8.1 Detector Survey Finds - Analysis

- 8.1.1 Of the eight medieval finds recovered from the assessment area, three are small, roughly cylindrical, pierced lead weights. They are most likely to have been small loom weight. Parallels identified by Egan (2005) date to the 15th century.
- 8.1.2 Two of the finds are lead pot mends. These objects are formed when molten lead is poured to seal a crack or hole in a ceramic vessel. The two mends have been assigned a medieval date although might be post-medieval.
- 8.1.3 The bronze vessel leg is likely to have been from a small skillet or tripod jug of medieval date (Lewis 1978).
- 8.1.4 The horseshoe fragment appears to be Type 4, according to the criteria defined by Clark (1995). This would date it to the period 1350-1400.

8.2 Finds Summary

- 8.2.1 Though medieval finds were recovered from across the assessment area, all are arguably domestic in nature and appear unlikely, therefore, to relate to the 1198 battle.

9 Discussion and Interpretation

9.1 Reliability of field investigation

9.1.1 The field investigation was hampered by bad weather, including heavy snow, frosts and rain. Large areas of standing water were encountered during both the metal detector survey and the geophysical survey.

9.1.2 Areas of field 3 were deemed too wet for the geophysical survey to be carried out.

9.2 Overall interpretation & Evidence for the Battle

9.2.1 The overall interpretation, gained from both the geophysical survey and the evaluation trenching, is that no features readily identifiable with the 1198 battle were located during the assessment.

9.2.2 Similarly, the finds recovered by the metal detector survey do not appear related to battlefield activities. They are more likely to represent small items spread through chance loss or manuring.

9.2.3 The most significant result arising from the works undertaken in both 2012 and 2013 is confirmation from the farmer of the location of the two human skeletons he found in the 1980s. The locations two skeletons, previously alluded to by Remfry (1999), have now been accurately recorded (Smith 2012).

9.3 Conclusions

9.3.1 Based on the evidence of both phases of survey work, the following conclusions can be reached:

- No new evidence, either finds or features, has been located that can tie any of the areas surveyed around Painscastle to the 1198 battle.
- It is likely that the two skeletons found in the 1980s relate to the 1198 battle.

9.3.2 The presence of the skeletons appears to tentatively link the area around Rhydlydan with the battle. Fig 12 shows the tentative extent of the battle based on the fieldwork undertaken in 2012 and 2013.

9.3.3 As both of the skeletons were located by earthmoving activities (pond excavation and road widening) it would seem prudent to ensure that any similar activities undertaken in the future are subject to an archaeological watching brief.

10 Acknowledgements

10.1.1 Thanks are due to the landowners of the assessment area for allowing us onto their land and to Louise Barker of The Commission for her help. Thanks are also due to Dr Phillips (APAC) for his assistance with the geophysical survey. Special thanks, however, are reserved to those local volunteers and members of local metal detecting clubs who gave up their free time to assist with the project.

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APPENDIX I:

Figures

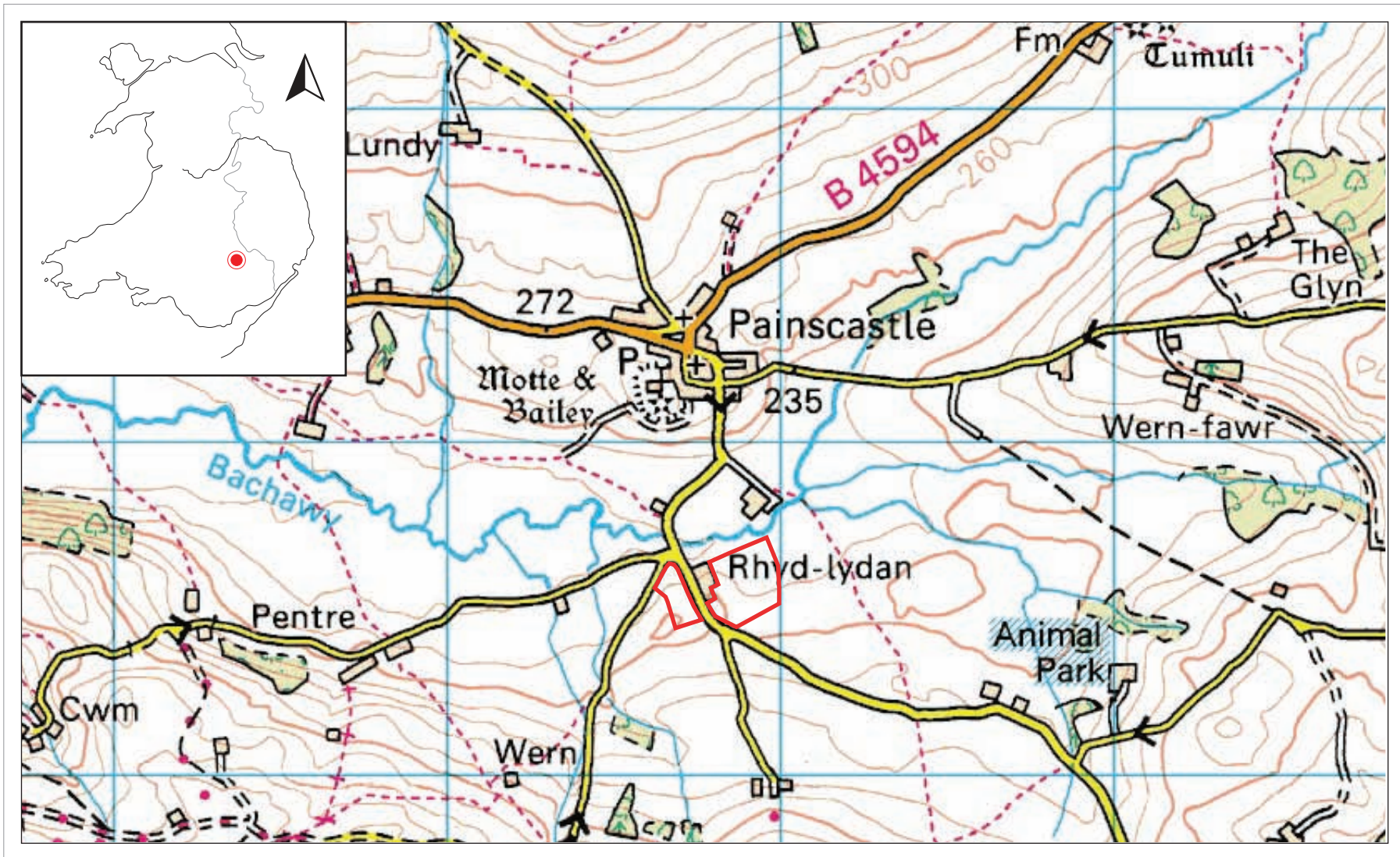


Fig 01: Map showing general location of assessment area

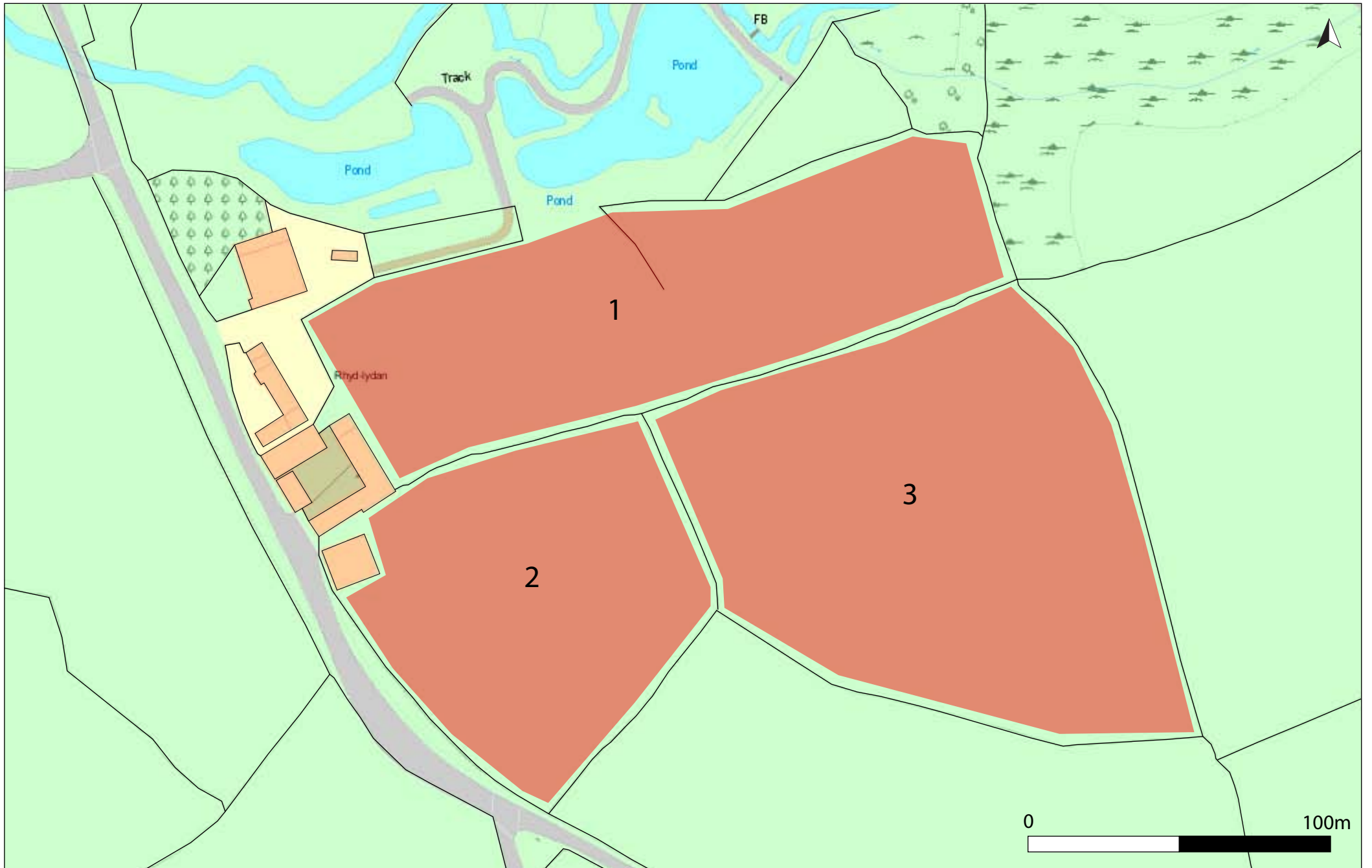


Fig 2: Plan showing locations of fields 1, 2 & 3 adjacent to Rhydlydan Farm



Fig 3: Plan showing location of trenches adjacent to Rhydlydan Farm, overlaying 2012 geophysics

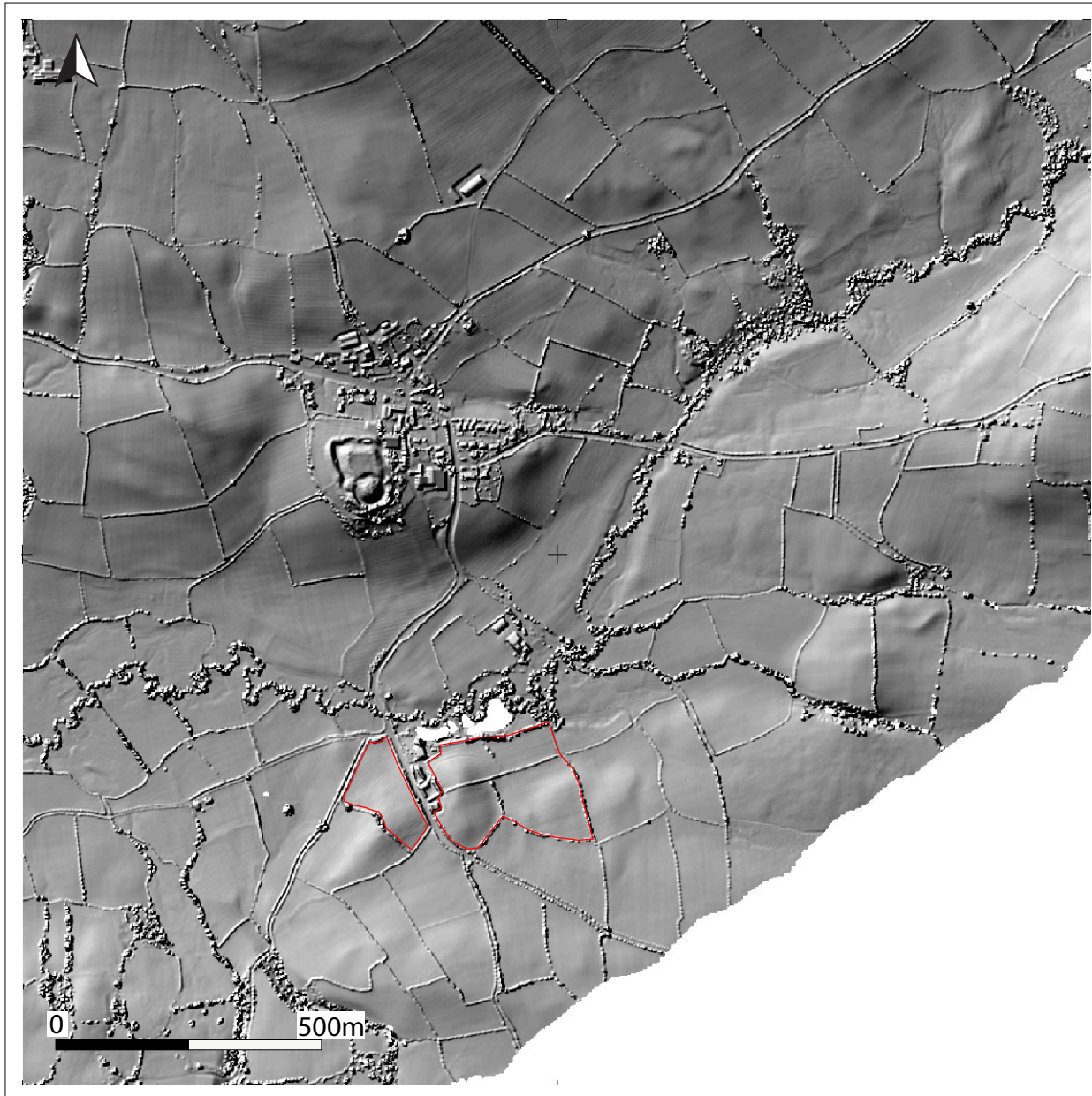


Fig 4: LiDAR DSM plot showing all of assessment area and surroundings. Copyright Reserved, Environment Agency Geomatics Group; hillshade *DSM/DTM* view generated by RCAHMW

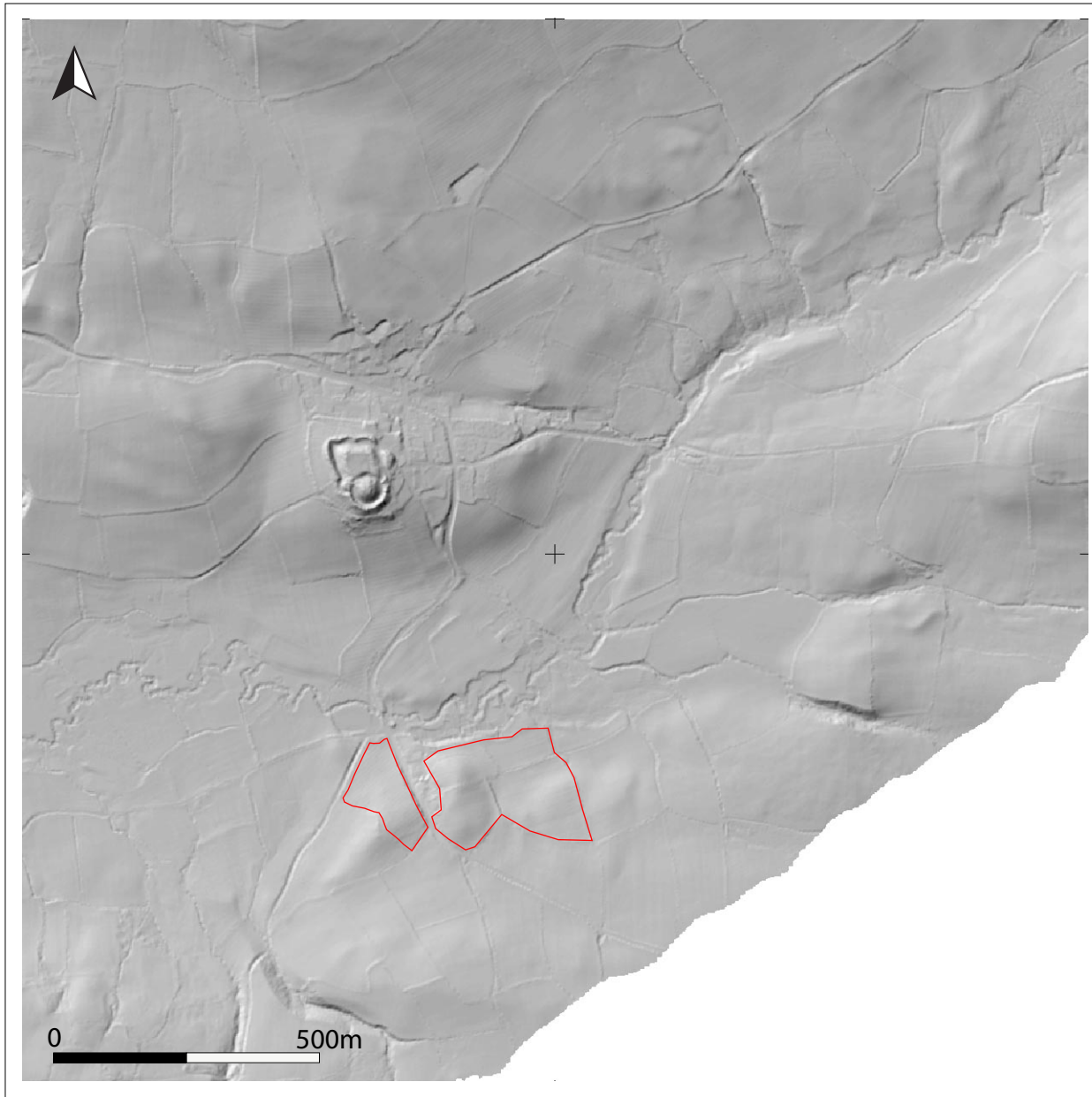
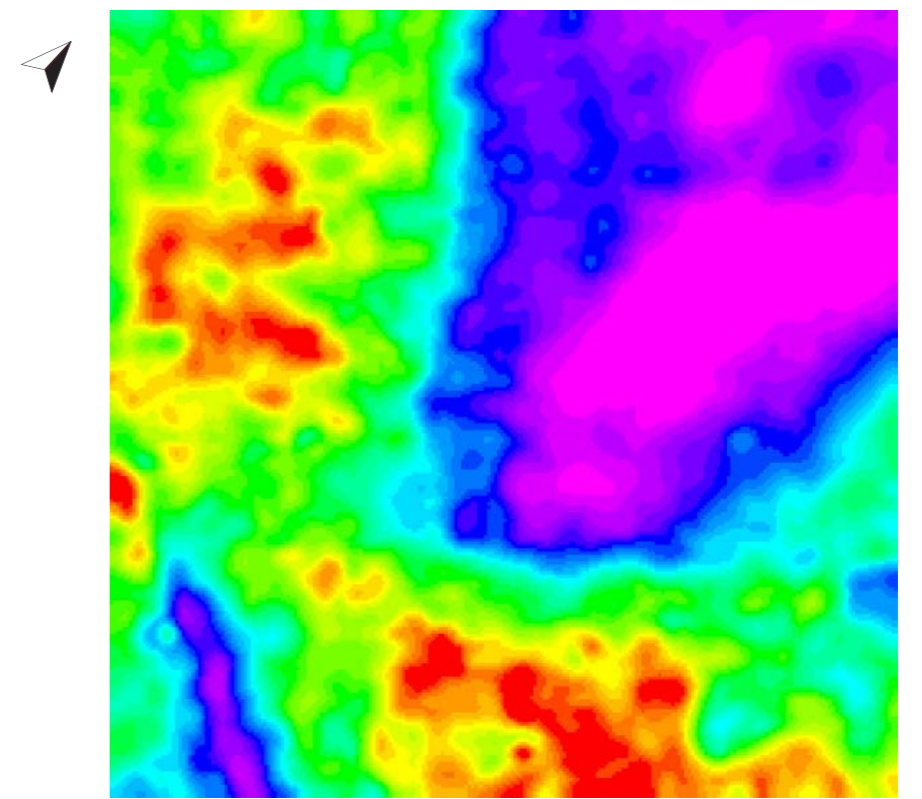
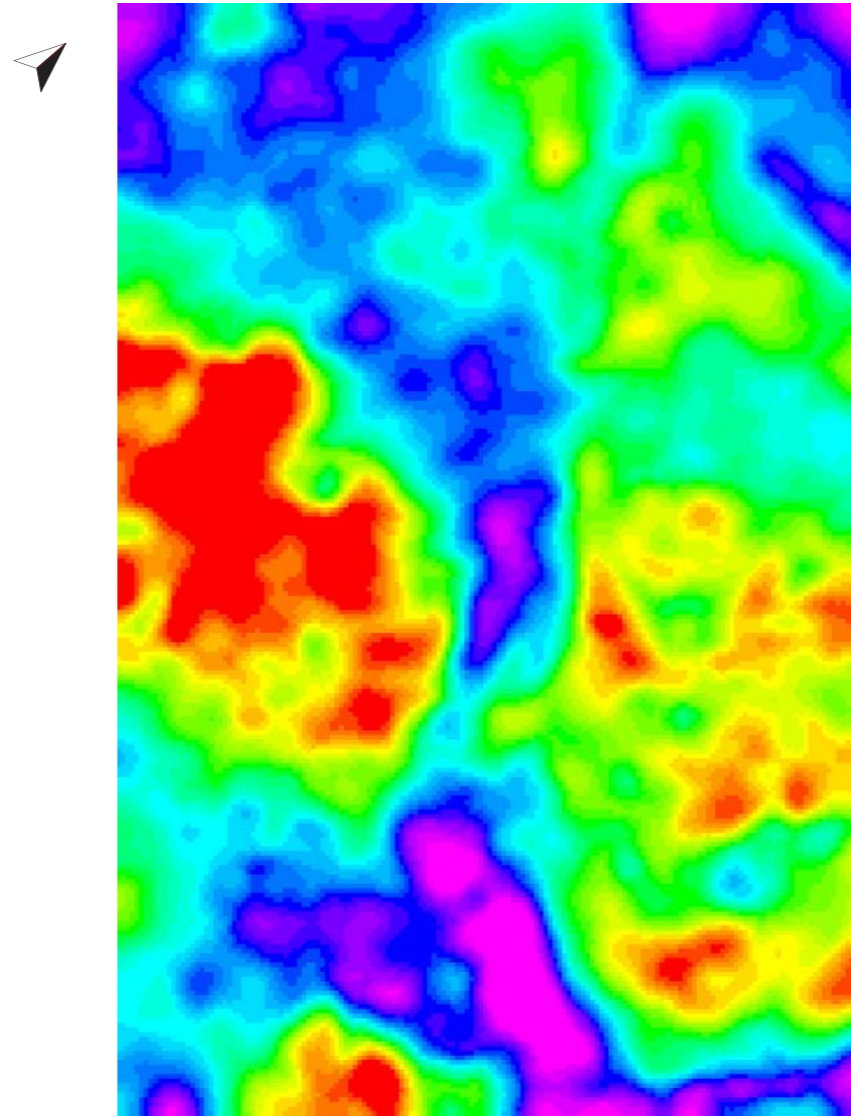
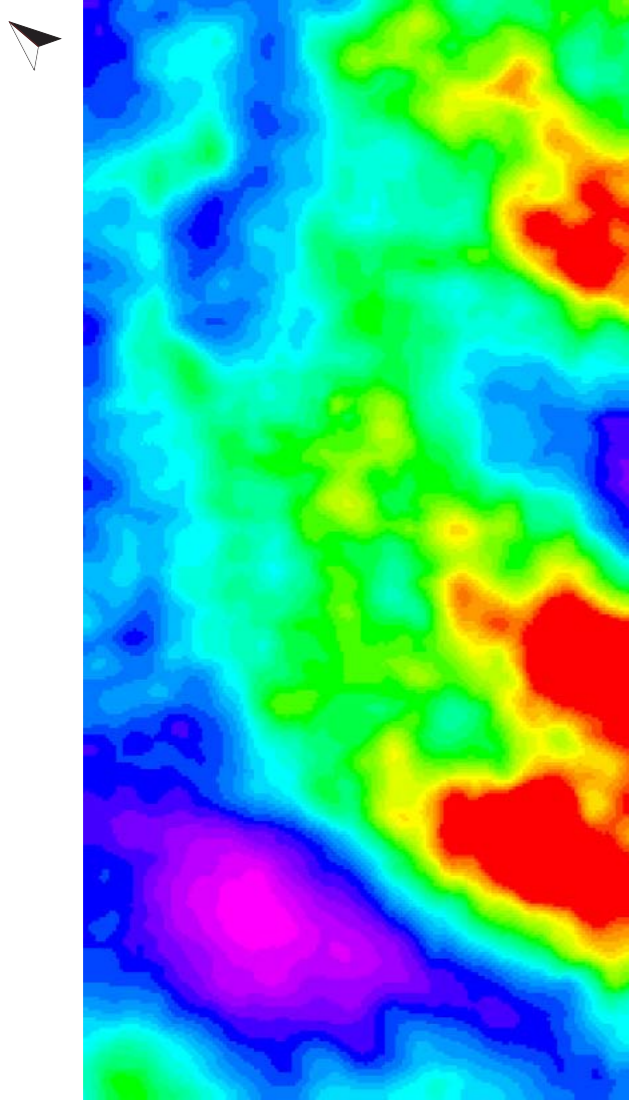




Fig 5: LiDAR DTM plot showing all of assessment area and surroundings. Copyright Reserved, Environment Agency Geomatics Group; hillshade *DSM/DTM* view generated by RCAHMW



 High Resistance
 Low Resistance



Job Title: Painscastle Battlefield

Drawing Title: Geophysical surveys

Date: 26th March 2013

Drawn By: C E Smith

Scale: See scale bar

Figure 06:



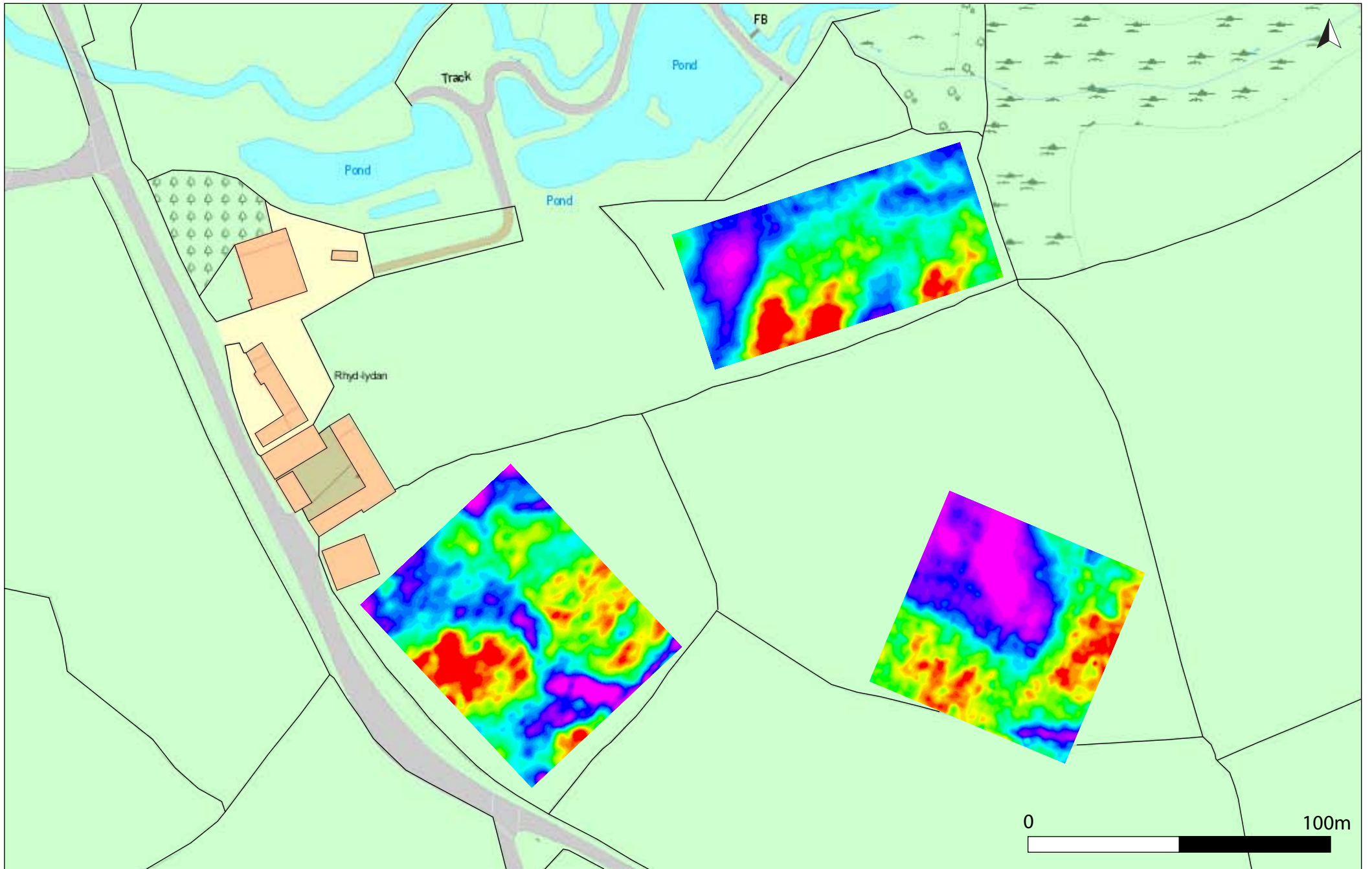


Fig 7: Plan showing locations of geophysical surveys south and east of Rhydlydan

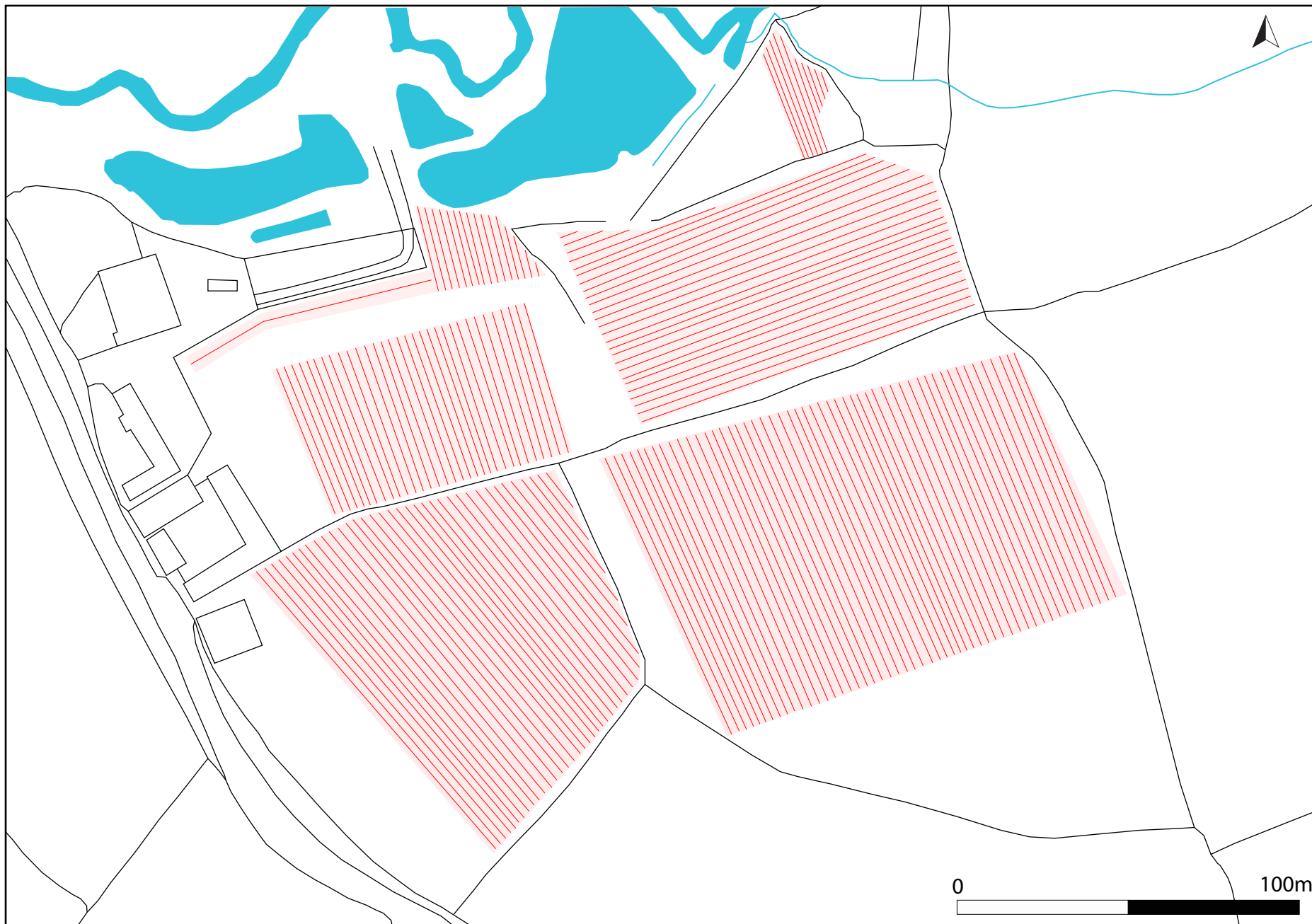


Fig 8: Location of metal detector surveys

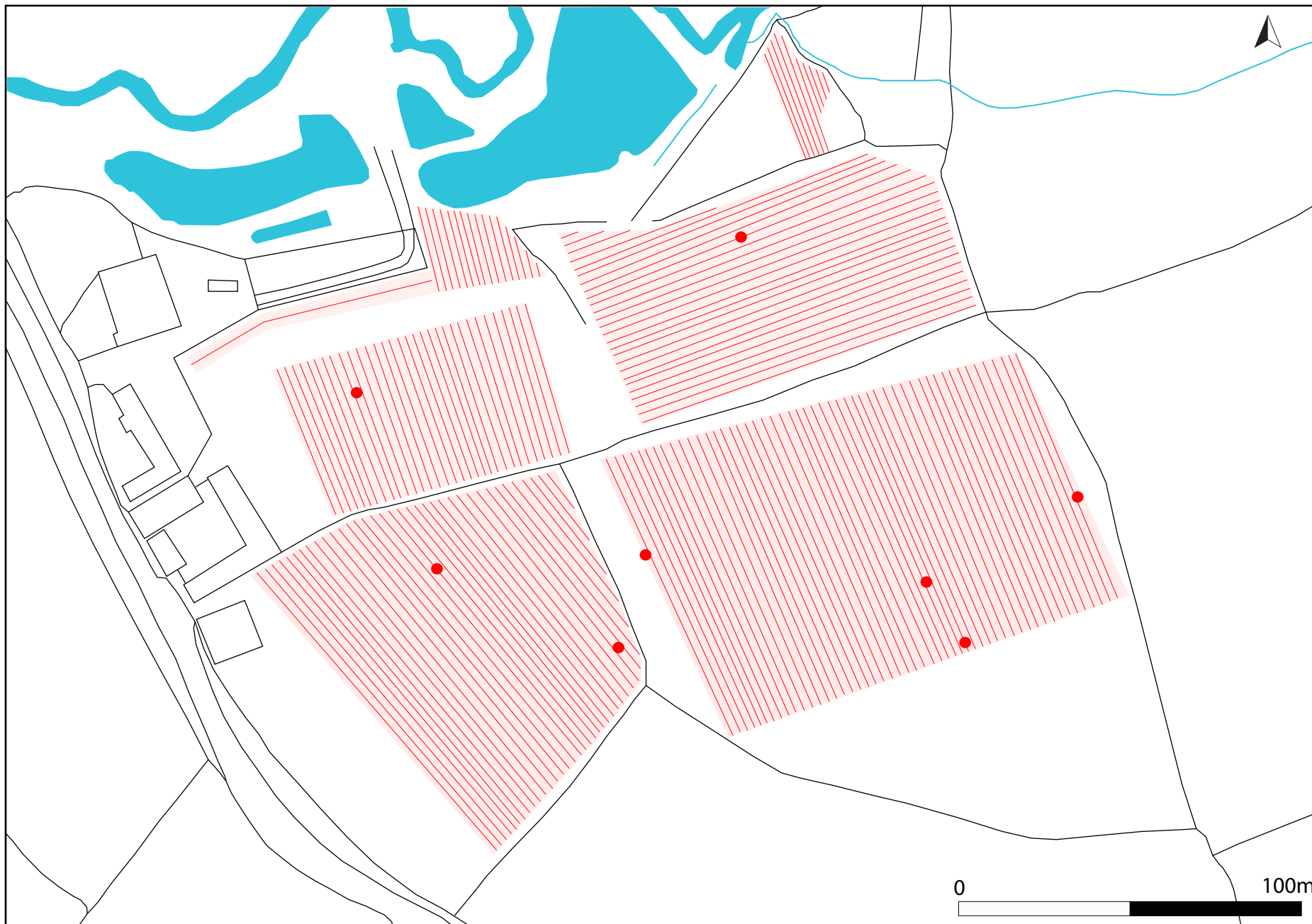


Fig 9: Location of medieval finds

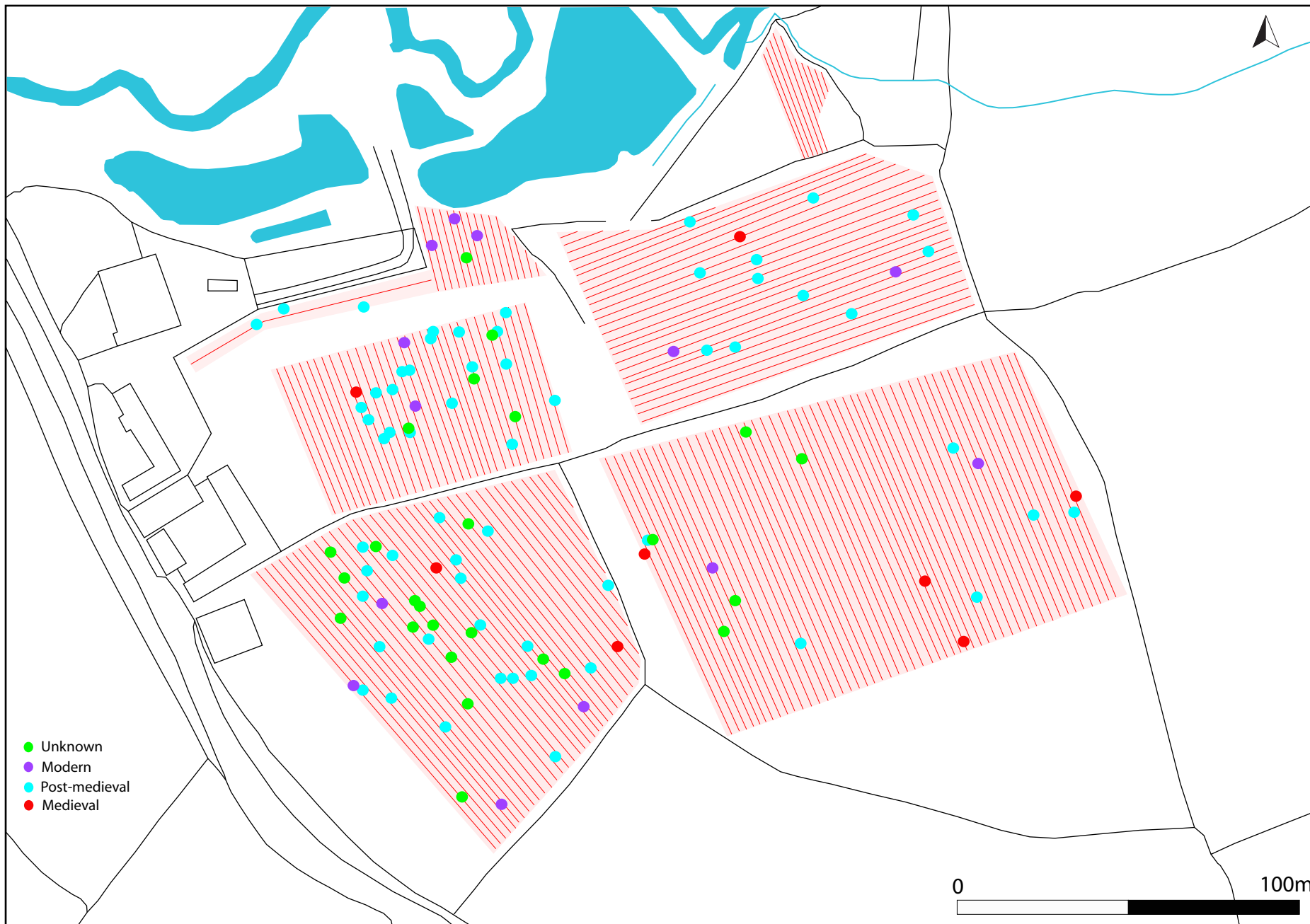
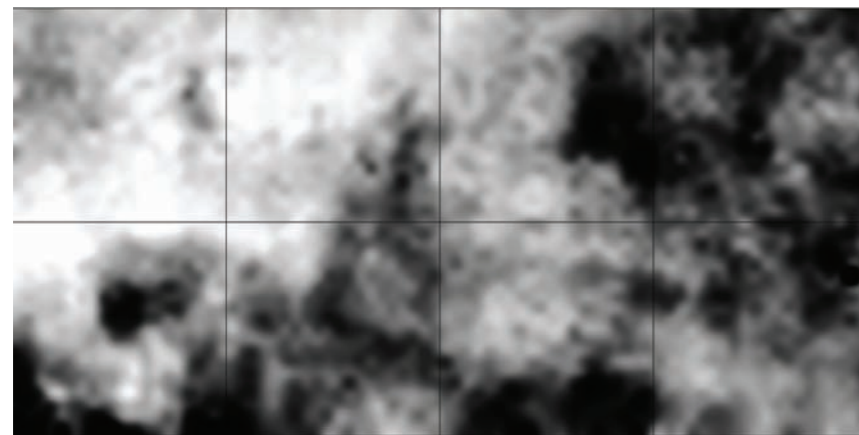
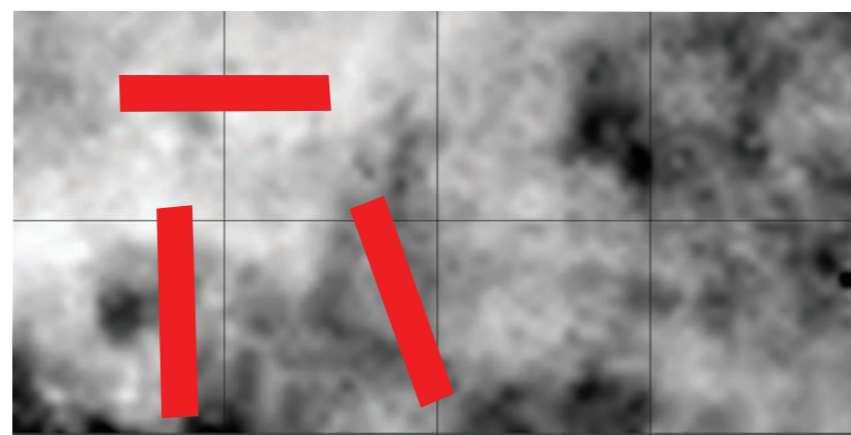


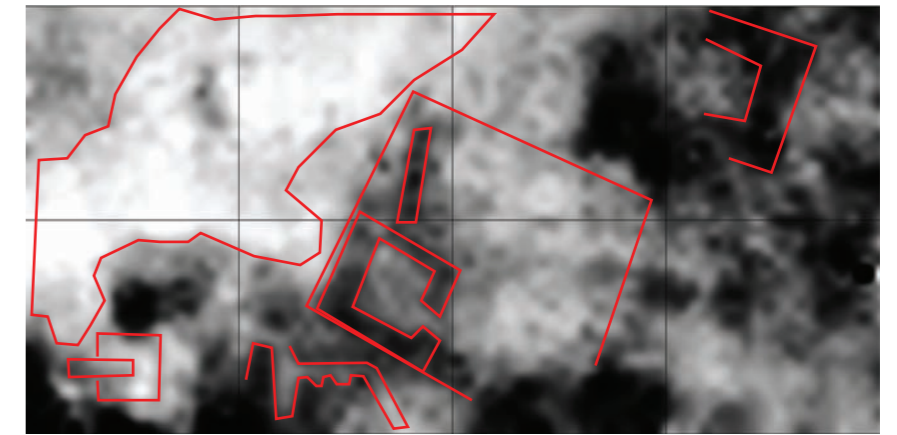
Fig 10: Location of all finds



Graded plot. Black = high resistance, white = low resistance



Trench locations



Traced interpretation

Job Title: Painscastle Battlefield

Drawing Title: 2012 Geophysics

Date: 26th March 2013

Drawn By: C E Smith

Scale: See bar scale

Figure 11:



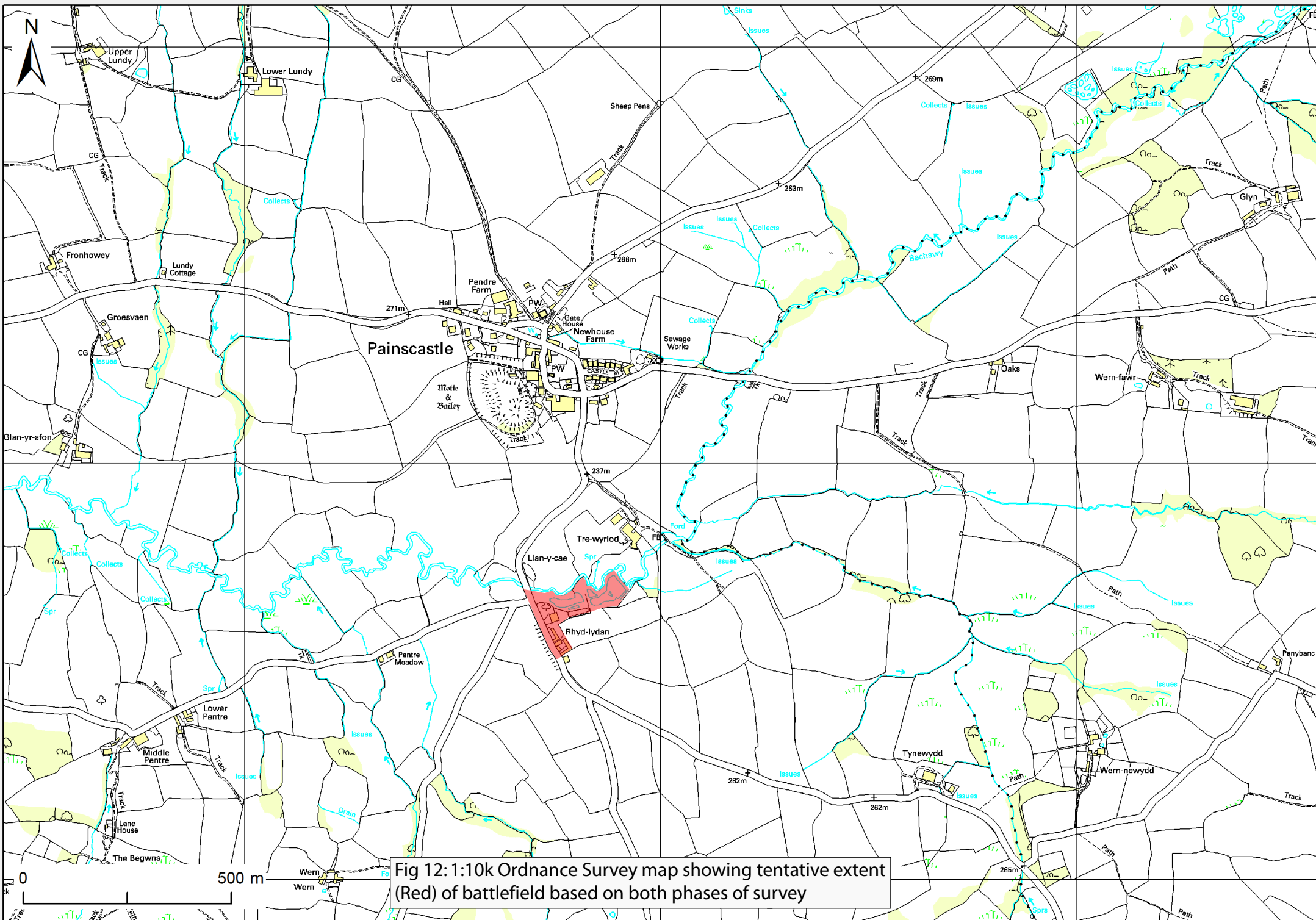


Fig 12: 1:10k Ordnance Survey map showing tentative extent (Red) of battlefield based on both phases of survey

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APPENDIX II: Plates



Plate 1: View along Trench 1, looking north east
Scales 2x2m & 1x1m



Plate 2: Oblique view of Trench 1, looking east north east
Scales 2x2m & 1x1m



Plate 3: View along Trench 1, Looking south west
Scales 2x2m & 1x1m



Plate 4: Oblique view of Trench 1, Looking south
Scales 2x2m & 1x1m



Plate 5: View along Trench 2, Looking south west
Scales 2x2m & 1x1m



Plate 6: Oblique view of Trench 2, Looking west
Scales 2x2m & 1x1m



Plate 7: View along Trench 2, Looking north east
Scales 2x2m & 1x1m



Plate 8: Oblique view of Trench 2, Looking west
Scales 1x2m & 1x1m



Plate 9: View along Trench 3, Looking south east
Scales 2x2m & 1x1m



Plate 10: Oblique view of Trench 3, Looking south
Scales 2x2m & 1x1m



Plate 11: View along Trench 3, Looking north west
Scales 2x2m & 1x1m



Plate 12: Oblique view of Trench 3, Looking south
Scales 1x2m & 1x1m

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APPENDIX III: Finds Catalogue

Find No.	Description	Date	Easting	Northing	Depth
1	Cu Alloy button	PM	316,822.56	245,550.98	0.15m
2	Pb object	Unknown	316,803.34	245,551.67	0.1m
3	Fe object	Unknown	316,807.44	245,543.76	0.12m
4	Cu Penny	PM	316,813.21	245,553.67	0.15m
5	Fe lump & PM pot x2	PM	316,814.54	245,546.02	0.2m
6	Pb object, pan weight?	Med	316,835.77	245,547.00	0.15m
7	Small Cu Alloy button	PM	316,817.93	245,522.88	0.15m
8	Cast iron lump	Unknown	316,828.76	245,529.02	0.1m
9	Fe object	Unknown	316,830.33	245,535.21	0.2m
10	Fe object	Unknown	316,829.50	245,536.42	0.1m
11	Cu fragment	Unknown	316,840.43	245,519.66	0.1m
12	Fe object/lump	Unknown	316,834.77	245,529.32	0.12m
13	Fe poss horseshoe calkin	PM	316,838.54	245,498.21	0.25m
14	Small Fe object	Unknown	316,843.65	245,476.22	0.1m
15	Fe ring	Modern	316,856.00	245,473.79	0.17m
16	Pewter button	PM	316,872.99	245,488.54	0.1m
17	Small Cu Alloy button	PM	316,833.32	245,524.99	0.1m
18	Worn blank Cu coin	PM	316,855.45	245,512.77	0.2m
19	Fe lump	Unknown	316,846.54	245,526.89	0.2m
20	Fe Object	Modern	316,881.13	245,504.21	0.05m
21	Small Cu Alloy button	PM	316,843.11	245,543.76	0.1m
22	Small Cu Alloy button	PM	316,849.45	245,529.29	0.15m
23	Fe object	Unknown	316,817.32	245,553.71	0.21m
24	Pewter button	PM	316,841.87	245,549.09	0.13m
25	Fe object	Unknown	316,845.66	245,560.34	0.21m
26	2x Fe objects/lumps	Unknown	316,868.92	245,518.45	0.1m
27	Bronze object/lump	Unknown	316,875.44	245,514.23	0.2m
28	Fe object/lump	Unknown	316,845.87	245,504.78	0.2m
29	Pewter button	PM	316,836.90	245,562.33	0.2m
30	Fe buckle	PM	316,851.62	245,558.34	0.13m
31	Cu Alloy token (Worcs)	PM	316,864.11	245,522.64	0.13m
32	Cu Alloy key	PM	316,889.23	245,541.41	0.12m
33	Pewter spoon fragment	PM	316,865.22	245,513.66	0.18m
34	Pewter fragment	PM	316,859.01	245,512.87	0.15m
35	Pewter button	PM	316,883.51	245,516.22	0.15m
36	Small Cu Alloy button	PM	316,821.77	245,506.89	0.05m
37	Pb object	Unknown	316,806.41	245,531.26	0.1m
38	Fe nail	Modern	316,818.90	245,535.76	0.3m
39	Pewter spoon fragment	PM	316,813.15	245,538.03	0.2m
40	Fe nail	Modern	316,810.13	245,510.66	0.25m
41	Pewter button	PM	316,812.80	245,509.12	0.25m
42	Bronze vessel leg	Med	316,891.77	245,522.41	0.28m
43	Small Cu Alloy button	PM	316,901.32	245,555.31	0.1m
44	Pb poss loom weight	Med	316,900.45	245,551.27	0.19m
45	Cu Alloy fragment	Unknown	316,928.45	245,536.77	0.17m
46	Fe nail	Unknown	316,924.57	245,527.31	0.15m
47	Fe lump	Unknown	316,902.92	245,555.12	0.15m
48	Fe object	Modern	316,921.22	245,546.98	0.14m
49	Small Cu Alloy button	PM	316,948.34	245,523.51	0.25m
50	Small bronze fragment	Unknown	316,931.32	245,589.03	0.17m
51	Pb Object	Unknown	316,949.00	245,580.27	0.25m

52	Pb pot mend	Med	316,986.53	245,542.65	0.18m
53	Cu Penny & PM pot	PM	317,002.78	245,537.22	0.14m
54	Pb Buck Shot	PM	316,995.43	245,583.45	0.15m
55	Cu Alloy object	Modern	317,003.25	245,578.99	0.14m
56	Cu Alloy buckle	PM	317,020.34	245,562.33	0.21m
57	Pb pot mend	Med	317,033.44	245,568.92	0.08m
58	Pewter button	PM	317,032.55	245,564.09	0.12m
59	2x Pewter buttons	PM	316,988.76	245,512.33	0.2m
60	Pb poss loom weight	Med	316,998.89	245,524.03	0.15m
61	Small Cu Alloy button	PM	316,821.45	245,589.11	0.17m
62	Pb game weight/bias	PM	316,814.88	245,592.96	0.2m
63	Cu Penny	PM	316,819.66	245,587.11	0.2m
64	Cu Alloy buckle	PM	316,827.53	245,589.00	0.15m
65	Small Cu Alloy button	PM	316,825.21	245,607.80	0.2m
66	Fe object/fragment	Unknown	316,827.41	245,590.06	0.14m
67	Worn blank Cu coin	PM	316,812.65	245,596.60	0.19m
68	Fe Horseshoe (Type 4)	Med (14/15 th)	316,811.12	245,601.37	0.26m
69	Pewter button	PM	316,813.56	245,627.87	0.06m
70	Pb game weight/bias	PM	316,817.33	245,601.24	0.1m
71	Cu Alloy buckle	PM	316,822.47	245,602.21	0.12m
72	Cu Alloy draw handle	Modern	316,829.44	245,592.41	0.19m
73	Pb game weight/bias	PM	316,827.60	245,608.30	0.23m
74	Cu Alloy spoon	PM	316,840.43	245,598.01	0.15m
75	Small Cu fragments	Modern	316,826.23	245,616.43	0.12m
76	Pewter button fragment	PM	316,834.78	245,620.00	0.18m
77	Small Cu Alloy Spoon	PM	316,833.91	245,618.10	0.1m
78	Cu Alloy fragment	Unknown	316,845.21	245,642.76	0.12m
79	Fe 'D' ring	Modern	316,834.27	245,646.29	0.2m
80	Fe object	Modern	316,841.34	245,654.78	0.1m
81	Cu Penny	Modern	316,843.66	245,670.91	0.2m
82	Fe object/lump	Unknown	316,853.21	245,618.98	0.2m
83	Small Cu Alloy button	PM	316,854.57	245,619.55	0.11m
84	Worn blank Cu coin	PM	316,857.09	245,625.88	0.25m
85	Worn blank Cu coin	PM	316,857.33	245,609.89	0.15m
86	Pb Object	Unknown	316,860.32	245,593.65	0.15m
87	Pb Musket ball	PM	316,846.33	245,608.90	0.19m
88	Small Cu Alloy spoon	PM	316,842.98	245,620.01	0.21m
89	Small Cu Alloy button	PM	316,859.10	245,585.32	0.13m
90	Cu Alloy object. Clip?	Unknown	316,847.51	245,605.49	0.2m
91	Fe buckle	PM	316,788.46	245,627.53	0.1m
92	Small Cu Alloy button	PM	316,780.50	245,622.09	0.1m
93	Fe Tool tang	Modern	316,909.32	245,613.55	0.22m
94	Small Cu Alloy button	PM	316,872.28	245,598.77	0.1m
95	Worn blank Cu coin	PM	316,919.45	245,614.18	0.23m
96	Cu Alloy Barrel Tap Key	PM	316,964.00	245,625.03	0.3m
97	Fe Hinge	Modern	316,977.54	245,638.42	0.25m
98	Small Cu Alloy button	PM	316,988.07	245,644.23	0.26m
99	Cu Alloy button	PM	316,935.09	245,636.54	0.2m
100	Worn blank Cu coin	PM	316,917.33	245,637.80	0.13m
101	Small Cu Alloy button	PM	316,934.55	245,642.00	0.15m
102	Worn blank Cu coin	PM	316,928.38	245,615.03	0.2m
103	Pb Musket ball	PM	316,949.31	245,631.31	0.21m
104	Small Cu Alloy button	PM	316,914.33	245,653.79	0.2m

105	Pb Loom Weight	Med	316,929.46	245,649.01	0.26m
106	Pb Token	PM	316,983.47	245,655.89	0.2m
107	Worn blank Cu coin	PM	316,952.42	245,661.20	0.13m

Med	8	7.47%
PM	61	57.03%
Modern	13	12.14%
Unknown	25	23.36%

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APPENDIX IV: Archive Cover Sheet

Paincastle Battlefield, Paincastle

Site Name:	Paincastle
Site Code:	WBS/13/SUR
PRN:	-
NPRN:	402326
SAM:	-
Other Ref No:	-
NGR:	SO166460
Site Type:	Battlefield
Project Type:	Survey
Project Manager:	Chris E Smith
Project Dates:	Feb-Mar 2013
Categories Present:	Medieval-Modern
Location of Original Archive:	AW
Location of duplicate Archives:	-
Number of Finds Boxes:	1
Location of Finds:	-
Museum Reference:	-
Copyright:	AW
Restrictions to access:	None

Archaeology Wales

Archaeology Wales Limited,
Rhos Helyg, Cwm Belan,
Llanidloes, Powys, SY18 6QF
Tel: +44 (0) 1686 440371
Email: admin@arch-wales.co.uk