

# Penygraig Uchaf, Ystrad Meurig, Ceredigion Watching Brief



Report by: Trysor

For: T Jones

November 2015



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By

Jenny Hall, MCifA & Paul Sambrook, MCifA  
Trysor

Trysor Project No. 2015/424

For: T Jones

November 2015

38, New Road  
Gwaun-cae-Gurwen  
Ammanford  
Carmarthenshire  
SA18 1UN  
[www.trysor.net](http://www.trysor.net)  
enquiries@trysor.net



*Cover photograph: Topsoil removed from the hardstanding area, looking southwest.*

# Penygraig Uchaf, Ystrad Meurig, Ceredigion Watching Brief

**RHIF YR ADRODDIAD - REPORT NUMBER:** Trysor 2015/424

**DYDDIAD** 17<sup>eg</sup> Tachwedd 2015

**DATE**

17<sup>th</sup> November 2015

**Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan bartneriad Trysor. Mae wedi ei gael yn gywir ac yn derbyn ein sêl bendith.**

**This report was prepared by the Trysor partners. It has been checked and received our approval.**

**JENNY HALL MCIFA**

*Jenny Hall*

**PAUL SAMBROOK MCIFA**

*Paul Sambrook*

***Croesawn unrhyw sylwadau ar gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn.***

***We welcome any comments on the content or structure of this report.***

*38, New Road,  
Gwaun-cae-Gurwen  
Ammanford  
Carmarthenshire  
SA18 1UN  
01269 826397*

*Tyllwyd  
Eglywswrw  
Crymych  
Pembrokeshire  
SA41 3TD  
01239 891470*

[www.trysor.net](http://www.trysor.net)

[enquiries@trysor.net](mailto:enquiries@trysor.net)

Trysor is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and both partners are Members of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, [www.archaeologists.net](http://www.archaeologists.net) .

Jenny Hall (BSc Joint Hons., Geology and Archaeology, MCIfA) had 12 years excavation experience, which included undertaking watching briefs prior to becoming the Sites and Monuments Record Manager for a Welsh Archaeological Trust for 10 years. She has been an independent archaeologist since 2004 undertaking a variety of work that includes upland survey, desk-based appraisals and assessments, and watching briefs.

Paul Sambrook (BA Joint Hons., Archaeology and Welsh, MCIfA, PGCE) has extensive experience as a fieldworker in Wales. He was involved with Cadw's pan-Wales Deserted Rural Settlements Project for 7 years. He also undertook Tir Gofal field survey work and watching briefs. He has been an independent archaeologist since 2004 undertaking a variety of work including upland survey, desk-based appraisals/assessments, and watching briefs.

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## **1. Summary**

1.1 In May 2015, Trydor undertook a watching brief on groundworks for a single turbine at SN7075668193 at Penygraig Uchaf, Ystrad Meurig, planning application A140201.

1.2 No archaeologically significant contexts were recorded

## **2. Copyright**

2.1 Trydor hold the copyright of this report and of the paper and digital archive. Further paper copies may be made of this report without gaining permission to reproduce but it must be noted that Figures 2 and 3 include other copyright material and should not be copied.

## **3. Introduction**

3.1 Mr T Jones of Penygraig Uchaf, Ystrad Meurig, Ceredigion commissioned Trydor heritage consultants to prepare a written scheme of investigation on groundworks for a wind turbine at Penygraig Uchaf, Ystrad Meurig, Ceredigion relating to planning application number: A140201.

3.2 The Written Scheme Investigation (WSI) concluded that a watching brief was appropriate in this case, see Appendix A and the WSI was approved by the planning archaeologist at Dyfed Archaeological Trust.

## **4. The development**

4.1 The development consists of a single wind turbine and associated infrastructure.

## **5. Conditions on the consent**

5.1 In granting approval for the application, the Local Planning Authority imposed a condition on the consent; the condition specifies the actions necessary to mitigate the impact of the development on the archaeological resource.

*No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approve in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

*Reason: In order to protect potential archaeological interests.*

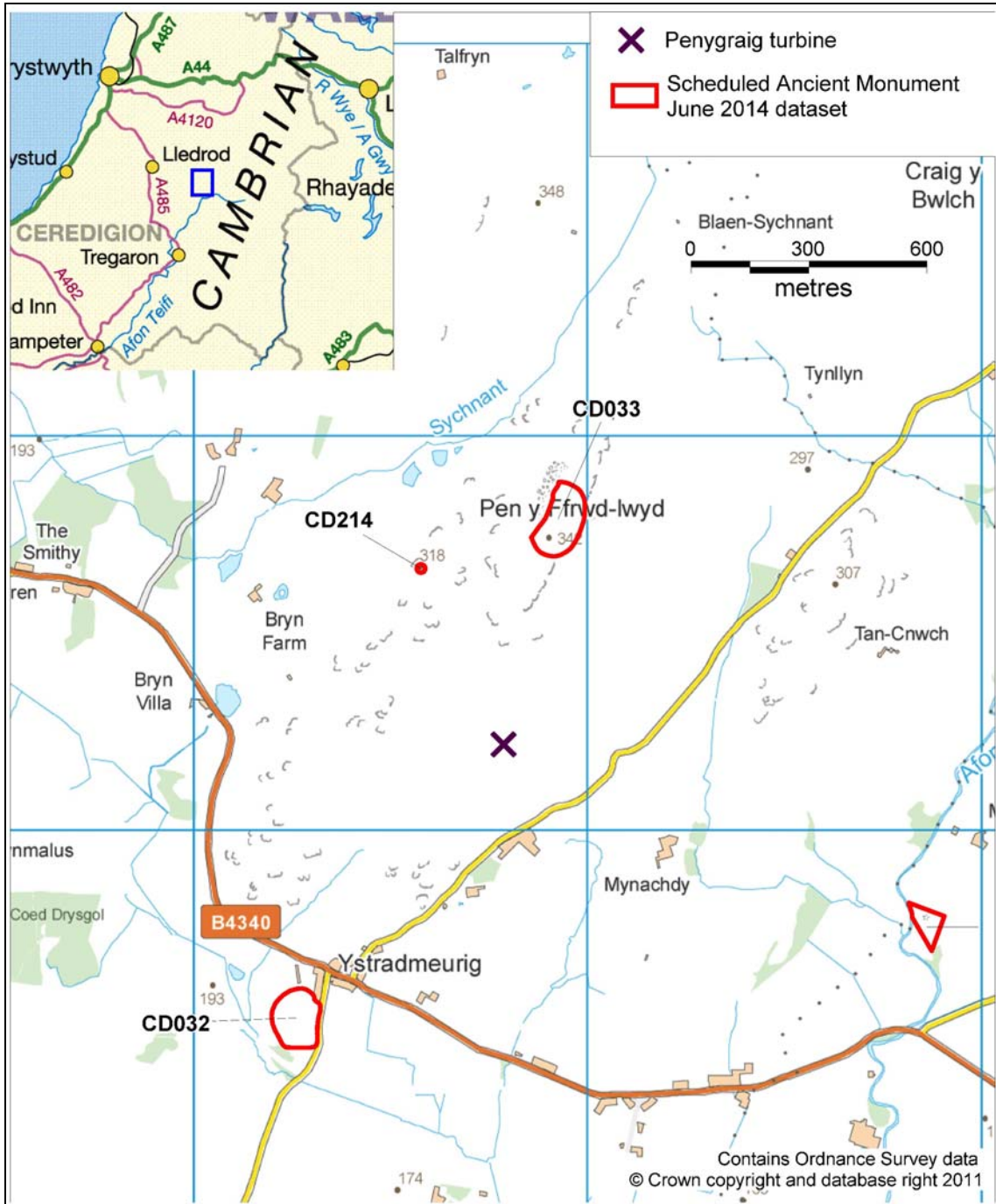


Figure 1: Location of watching brief

## 6. Historical and Archaeological Overview

6.1 Archaeology Wales undertook a desk-based assessment for another planning application, A130750, for two different turbines within the field (Archaeology Wales, 2013). This was also used as an information source for this planning application during the planning process.

6.2 The desk-based assessment identified no archaeologically significant features within the development area in the regional Historic Environment Record, on aerial photographs, historic maps or during the field visit. It identified the Penyffrwyd Scheduled Iron Age hillfort, CD033 500 metres to the north and The Scheduled Craig Ystradmeurig round cairn, CD214 500 metres to the northwest of the development site.

## 7. Methodology

7.1 In May 2015, the foundation trench for the turbine base was excavated. This process was observed by Trysor until natural subsoil with no archaeological contexts was exposed.

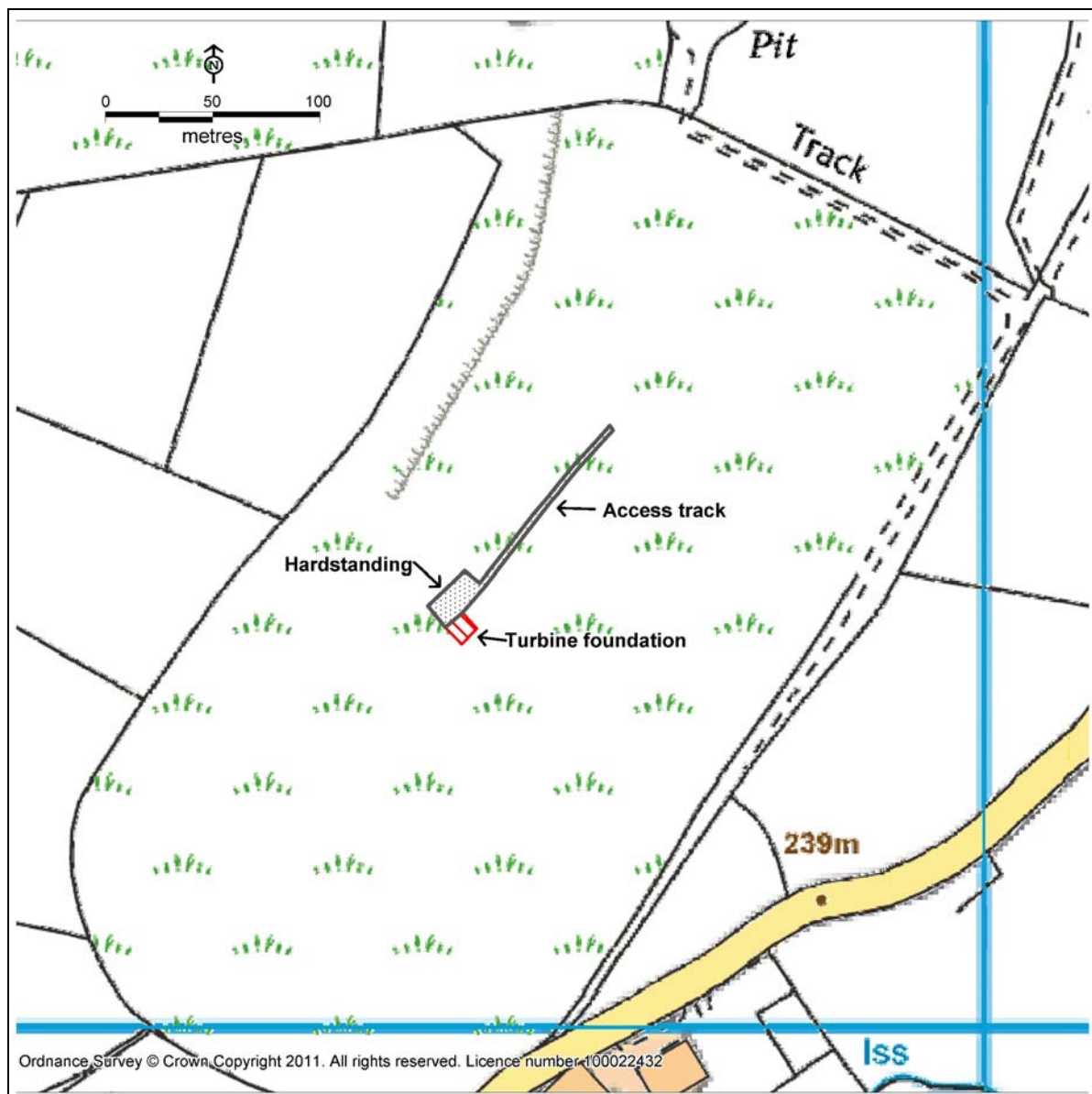


Figure 2: The foundation hole for the turbine at SN7075668193 and access.

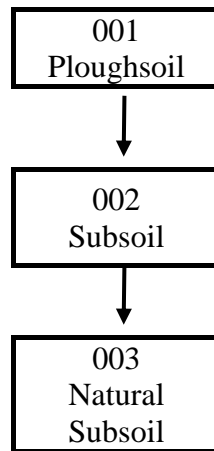


## 8. Site Stratigraphy

8.1 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014). The mechanical excavation of the foundation was watched by Trysor and the stratigraphy of the site recorded.

### 8.2 Context Catalogue

Context Number	Depth	Description	Interpretation
001	0.20 metres to 0.25 metres	10YR 3/3, dark brown, friable loam with very little gravel	Topsoil
002	Variable	10YR 4/6 Dark yellowish brown Friable loam plus shale gravel	Subsoil
003	-	10YR 5/3 brown clay including shale gravel	Natural subsoil



### 9. Photographs

9.1 Colour digital photographs were taken of topsoil stripping and excavation of trenches using a 16M pixel camera. The following table describes the content of each photograph included in the project archive and their locations are provided in the following map, see Figure 3. The photographs are included in Appendix B at the end of the report.

Photo Number	Description	Date Taken	Direction
PGU2015_101	After the topsoil, context 001, removed from the hardstanding area	07/05/2015	Looking southwest
PGU2015_102	The area of the turbine foundation	07/05/2015	Looking northwest
PGU2015_103	The area of the turbine foundation	07/05/2015	Looking southwest
PGU2015_104	The area of the turbine foundation	07/05/2015	Looking northeast

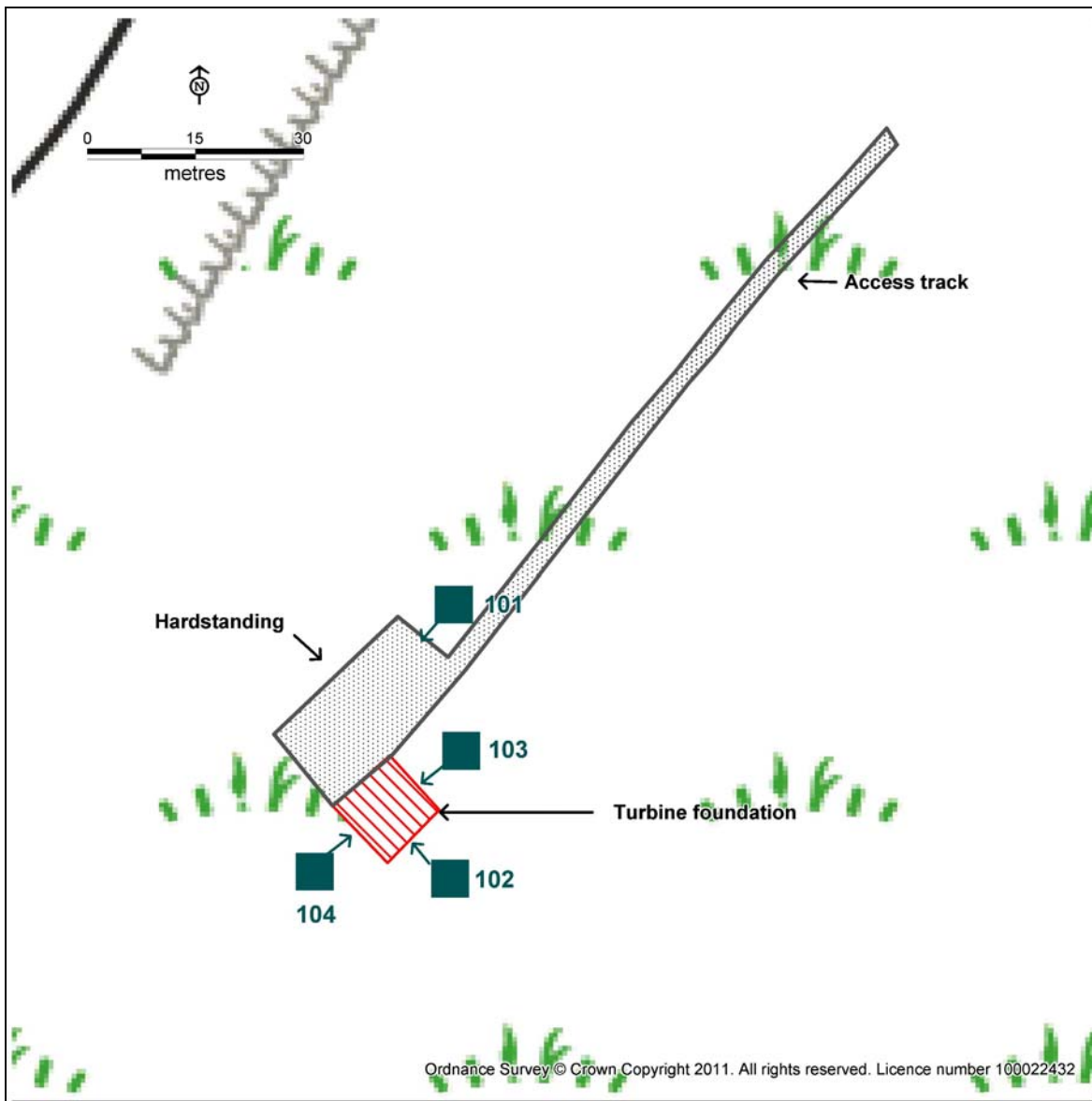


Figure 3: Location of photographs

**10. Conclusion**

10.1 No archaeological contexts or artefacts were observed during removal of the topsoil and subsoil.

**11. Archive**

11.1 The archive and a copy of the report and photographs will be deposited with the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth. Photographs are in TIFF format, following the standard required by the RCAHMW.

11.1 A further copy of the report will be supplied to the Historic Environment Record at Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Llandeilo.

**12. Sources**

12.1 CIfA Standard and Guidance

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014 , Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief, available online from the IfA website, [www.archaeologists.net](http://www.archaeologists.net)

APPENDIX A – Watching Brief Specification

PENCRAIG UCHAF, YSTRAD MEURIG, CEREDIGION  
WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

Planning application – A140201

1. Introduction

Mr T Jones of Pencraig Uchaf, Ystrad Meurig, Ceredigion has commissioned Trydor heritage consultants to prepare a written scheme of investigation on groundworks for a wind turbine at Pencraig Uchaf, Ystrad Meurig, Ceredigion relating to planning application number: A140201

The development is at SN7078468216.

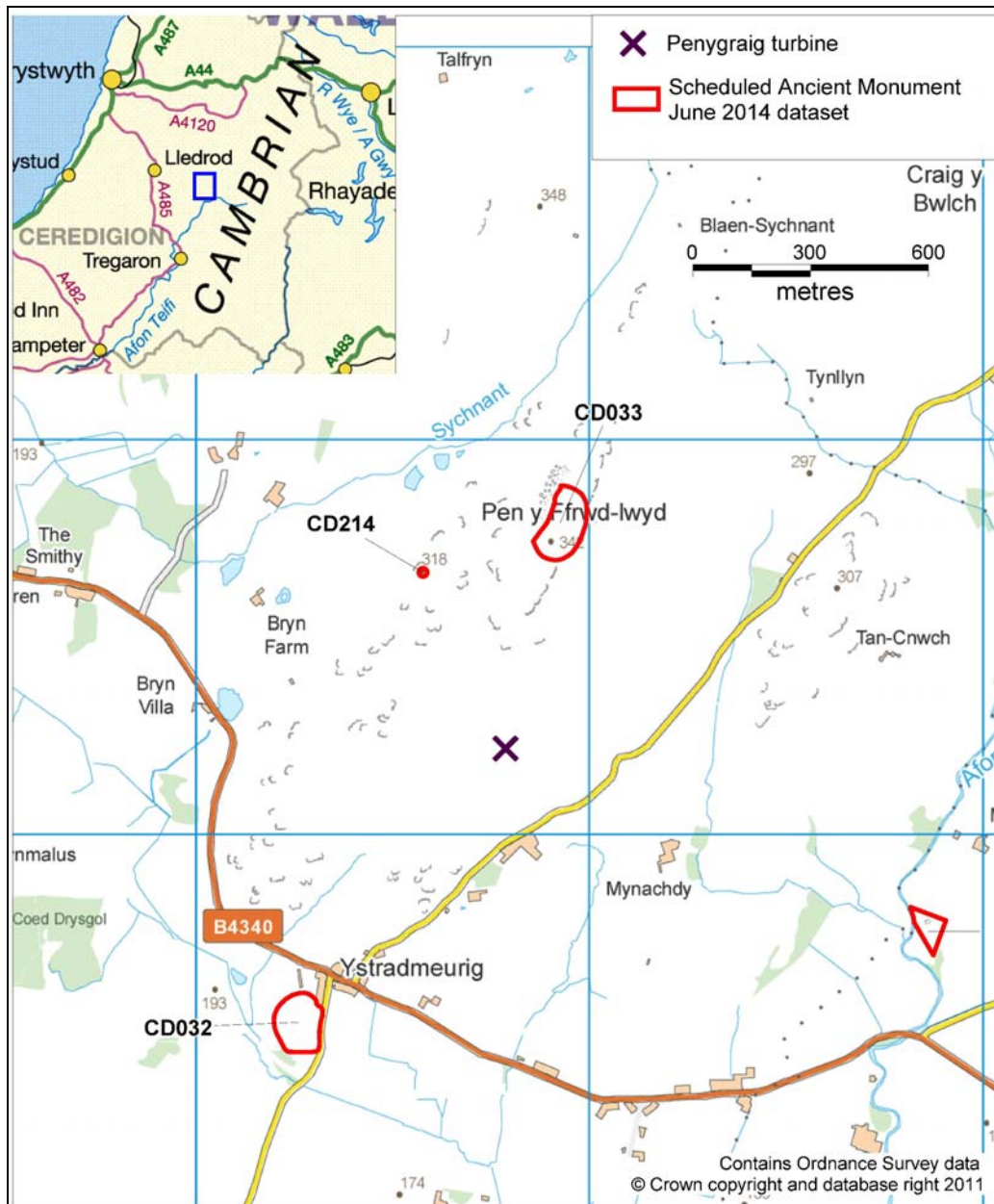


Figure 1: Location of the Pencraig Uchaf turbine.

## **2. The development**

The development consists of a single wind turbine and associated infrastructure. The turbine is 36.5 metres to hub and 46 metres to blade tip.

## **3. Nature of the archaeological resource**

Archaeology Wales undertook a desk-based assessment for another planning application, A130750, for two different turbines within the field (Archaeology Wales, 2013). This was also used as an information source for this application.

The desk-based assessment identified no archaeologically significant features within the development area in the regional Historic Environment Record, on aerial photographs, historic maps or during the field visit. It identified the Penyffrwyd Scheduled Iron Age hillfort, CD033 500 metres to the north and The Scheduled Craig Ystradmeurig round cairn, CD214 500 metres to the northwest of the development site.

## **4. Conditions on the consent**

In granting approval for the application, the Local Planning Authority imposed a condition on the consent; the condition specifies the actions necessary to mitigate the impact of the development on the archaeological resource.

*No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approve in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

*Reason: In order to protect potential archaeological interests.*

## **5. Field methodology**

A watching brief will be carried out in accordance with Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (CIfA, 2014a)

A two-person team will watch the excavation for groundworks associated with turbine and features of archaeological interest recorded. Excavation of any features will be limited to that necessary to establish their extent and character, unless their excavation is required to allow the development to proceed.

## **6. Contingency arrangements if archaeological features are discovered**

In the event that archaeological remains are encountered, where appropriate investigation falls outside the scope of this watching brief specification, a meeting between Trysor, the applicant, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Heritage Management Section and the Local Planning Authority case officer will be convened in order to agree a course of action. The applicant will be responsible for paying for any further work necessary.

## **7. Health & Safety**

Trysor will undertake a risk assessment in accordance with their health and safety policy.

## **8. Recording**

A plan of the groundworks, and representative sections if appropriate, will be drawn, at an appropriate scale, recording all features of archaeological interest. The plan will be based on the applicants' survey drawings of the development area.

A written record of all activity will be kept in a project specific notebook. If archaeological contexts are encountered they will be recorded following the *Central Excavation Unit Manual: Part 2: Recording*, 1986, using a consecutive numbering system.

Any artefacts will be dealt with in accordance with the guidance provided in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA, 2014b). Any artefacts will be retained, cleaned and stored. Following reporting they will be returned to the applicant.

Should any human remains be encountered, the Coroner and Regional Archaeological Trust will be immediately informed and the remains left *in situ*.

Colour digital photographs will be taken, as appropriate, using a 16M pixel camera. A written record will be made on site of the photographs taken. Appropriate photographic scales will be used.

## **9. Reporting**

A report on the watching brief will be prepared according to the requirements of Annexe 1 of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (CIfA, 2013a, p.12) following the completion of the work. Copies of the report will be provided to the client, the Regional Historic Environment Record and the National Monuments Record.

## **10. Dissemination**

A summary of the work undertaken and its findings will be submitted to *Archaeology in Wales*, the annual review of archaeological work in Wales collated the Council for British Archaeology Wales (CBA Wales)

## **11. Archive**

The paper archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Record, including a copy of the final report in accordance with the CIfA's *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (CIfA, 2014c). This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken. Photographs will be supplied in TIFF format in a file size greater than 11MB, following the standard required by the RCAHMW for Upland Survey (RCAHMW, 2011).

## **12. Resources to be used**

Two members of staff will undertake the watching brief. They will be equipped with standard field equipment, including digital cameras, GPS and first aid kits. Trysor have access to the computer hardware and software required to deliver the completed final report and archive to a professional standard.

### **13. Qualification of personnel**

Trysor is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and both partners are Members of the Institute for Archaeologists, [www.archaeologists.net](http://www.archaeologists.net)

Jenny Hall (BSc Joint Hons., Geology and Archaeology, MCIfA) had 12 years excavation experience, which included undertaking watching briefs prior to becoming the Sites and Monuments Record Manager for a Welsh Archaeological Trust for 10 years. Since 2004 she has been an independent archaeologist undertaking a variety of work that includes upland survey, desktop assessments and watching briefs.

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### **14. Insurance & Professional indemnity**

Trysor has Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance.

### **15. Project identification**

The project has been designated Trysor Project No. 2014/424

### **16. Sources**

#### ***16.1 Non-published***

Archaeology Wales, 2013, *Pen-y-Graig, Ystradmeurig, Ceredigion*

Central Excavation Unit, 1986, *Central Excavation Unit Manual: Part 2: Recording*, 1986

RCAHMW, 2011, *Form AB12: "Notes for Guidance" in the preparation of applications for Uplands Archaeology Initiative projects 2012-13*

#### ***16.2 Published***

CIfA, 2014a, *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief*

CIfA, 2014b, *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*.

CIfA, 2014c, *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*

#### ***16.3 Web-based***

Jenny Hall & Paul Sambrook  
Trysor, May 2015

**APPENDIX B**



*Plate 1: PGU2015\_101, After the topsoil, 001, removed from the hardstanding area, looking southwest.*



*Plate 2: PGU2015\_102, the area of the turbine foundation, looking northwest. The natural rock surface can be seen in the foreground.*





Plate 3: PGU2015\_103, the area of the turbine foundation, looking southwest. The natural rock can be seen in the far section, showing how it has been folded and has an uneven interface with subsoil above.



Plate 4: PGU2015\_104, the area of the turbine foundation, looking northeast. Again the uneven natural rock surface can be seen in the far section, here it gives a deeper depth of mixed subsoil. This is a natural feature and not created by human interaction