



CAMBRIAN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECTS

Trawscoed Mansion, Ceredigion

Archaeological Evaluation and Desk-based Assessment



By
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Report No. 593

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Trawscoed Mansion

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Summary

This report presents the findings of an archaeological evaluation undertaken within the grounds of Trawscoed Mansion, Ceredigion, in advance of proposed development. The aim of the evaluation was to confirm the presence or absence of Roman remains, due to the proximity of the site to a Scheduled Ancient Monument, Trawscoed Roman Fort and Vicus. A Roman road was identified, together with a roadside ditch. This is likely to be the remains of the Via Principalis which ran from the north-west gate of the Fort. Two associated features, a pit and a ditch, appear to be the result of roadside occupation and activities, and suggest that the Vicus extended into this area of Trawscoed Estate.

1. Introduction

1.1 Location and scope of work

The proposed development lies within the gardens of Trawscoed Mansion, Trawscoed, Ceredigion (NGR: SN 66922 73002; fig.1) and comprises the construction of new housing and a swimming pool. The proposed development is located within a former area of the gardens to the south-west of the house, now overgrown, and the adjacent car park on the site of a former military building. The swimming pool development is proposed for an area immediately adjacent to the house, extending from the rear of the 18th century house extension. The development proposal has been submitted by Lord Stephen Edwards of Trawscoed Mansion.

Trawscoed Mansion is a Grade II listed building dating back to the 17th century, and sits within 10 acres of gardens which have been listed as of national importance in the Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Interest in Wales. A scheduled Roman Fort dating to the 1st/2nd centuries AD is located in the field immediately to the south of the gardens (RCAHMW NPRN 92311). The site was therefore considered to have considerable archaeological potential. As a result, Charles Hill of the Curatorial Section of Dyfed Archaeological Trust (DAT-HM) recommended that a brief desk-based assessment and intrusive field evaluation be carried out to determine the nature of any archaeological remains within the proposed construction area. This follows the requirements set out in Planning Policy WALES, March 2002, section 6.5 and Welsh Office circular 60/96.

The purpose of the brief desk-based assessment and intrusive field evaluation was to determine the archaeological potential of the site through the assessment of existing secondary documentary sources and the excavation of strategically positioned evaluation trenches. The aim of the works was to elucidate the presence or absence of archaeological remains, their character, distribution, extent, condition and relative significance.

The work was undertaken by Dr Amelia Pannett (Project Manager) and Hywel Keen (Site Supervisor).

1.2 Geology and Topography

The site is located close to the river Ystwyth at around 60m OD. It sits on a terrace of river gravels and clay.

2. Archaeological and Historical Background

Trawscoed Mansion dates to the 17th century, although there has been a house on the site since the 12th century.

Trawscoed Roman Fort was identified from the air in 1959 when the outline of the defences appeared as parch marks in the field to the south-east of Trawscoed Mansion, on ground immediately to the east of the river Ystwyth. Trawscoed would have functioned as an Auxillary Fort, built to protect the point at which the strategic military road leading to Canovium (Caerhun) crosses the Ystwyth River. The Fort measures 165m long by 125m wide, and is enclosed by a ditch and bank which survives as an extant earthwork in the northern half of the site. The surviving bank measures up to 0.6m in height and 12m to 14m wide. The Fort is built around two contemporary roads, the Via Praetoria which runs north-east through the Fort and out of the north-east gate, and the Via Principalis which has been traced in the western half, exiting through the north-west gate, towards the site of the proposed housing development. The Via Principalis is 11m wide, with a ditch on the western side (Davies 1985).

Excavations undertaken at the Fort in 1962 and 1974 recovered pottery and coins dating from the 1st century AD, suggesting that the Fort was first constructed around AD 70 (Davies 1984). The initial period of use appears to have been fairly short, the Fort being abandoned, possibly burnt down by the end of the 1st century AD (Davies 1984). Reconstruction followed a short period of abandonment, with the new Fort adhering to a slightly different design and layout (Davies 1984). The second phase of occupation was also short, the Fort appearing to go out of use completely by AD 130 (Davies 1984). The excavations revealed the footprint of barracks in the northern quadrant of the Fort, together with evidence for the headquarters of the Fort and storage buildings along the Via Praetoria towards the centre of the Fort (Davies 1984).

Outside the Fort, excavations have confirmed the presence of the Vicus initially identified on aerial photographs. Along the north side of the Via Praetoria, just beyond the north-east gate, a series of buildings was identified (Davies 1984). These comprised wooden buildings with their narrow ends abutting the roadside and would have housed the civilian population that built up around the Fort. Buildings were also identified flanking both sides of the Via Principalis, beyond the north-west gate (Davies 1985). These timber structures extended along the road for at least 40m. A second, smaller, road, the Via Quintana, ran parallel with the Via Principalis, a north-east orientated road connecting the two just outside the Fort defences. Wooden buildings were identified lining the southern side of the Via Quintana, also continuing for approximately 40m along the route of the road (Davies 1985).

Geophysical survey undertaken by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust as part of the Cadw-funded Roman Forts and Environs Project revealed further details about the internal layout of the Fort, and the activities occurring outside the north-east gate (Hopewell 2006 and 2007; see figs. 10 and 11). Internally, six rows of barrack blocks occupy the northern quadrant, with a similar arrangement tentatively identified in the eastern quadrant. The rampart and ditch are clearly visible, with evidence for burning on the rampart supporting the idea proposed by Davies that the Fort was initially burnt down prior to AD 100. The line of the Via Praetoria is visible, running north-east from the Fort, with postholes identified immediately outside the gate being tentatively suggested as the remains of a gatehouse. The timber buildings identified during Davies' excavation are traced on the western side of the road, with a hint of further buildings on the eastern

side.

The area to the north and east of the Fort contains numerous other anomalies, some of which are very clearly not contemporary (the Bronze Age ring ditches) and some of which could be natural. However, the line of a road running approximately east/west is likely to represent a contemporary feature, connecting with the Via Praetoria in an area currently covered by trees. A scattering of hearths and pits could also be contemporary with the Fort, perhaps representing occupation on the fringes of the Vicus.

Recent geophysical survey by GAT, carried out in July 2009, has revealed the remains of a winged Roman Villa located within a rectangular enclosure at Abermagwr, 0.5km to the north-west of Trawscoed Mansion (Driver 2009). This is a significant find, unexpected in this part of Wales, an area traditionally characterised by military occupation. Further work to establish the date and nature of the Villa is planned.

3. Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of the brief desk-based assessment and field evaluation were:

- to establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the development areas;
- to provide sufficient information to allow mitigation against any adverse effects the proposed development may have on the buried archaeological resource;
- to undertake an assessment of the regional context within which the archaeological evidence rests and to highlight any relevant research issues within a national and regional research framework.

4. Documentary Research

4.1 Secondary Sources

The National Monuments Record and Ceredigion HER contain details of three Scheduled Ancient Monuments and 12 listed buildings within a 1km radius of Trawscoed Mansion. The listed buildings include the Mansion itself, the Dairy and other farm outbuildings associated with the Mansion, the gates at the end of the front drive, the two-tiered fountain within the garden and a garden seat at the end of the avenue within the arboreal area of the garden.

The Scheduled Ancient Monuments comprise the Roman Fort and Vicus (described above) together with a defended enclosure of probable Iron Age date at Coed Allt Camp and the Abermagwr Sawmill.

4.2 Map Regression

The Tithe Map of 1845 depicts the grounds surrounding the Mansion as predominantly farmland, with only the area immediately to the rear of the house laid to garden. The field containing both the Roman Fort and the housing development site is listed in the Tithe Apportionment as a paddock belonging to the Earl of Lisburne. The Fort is not marked and the Mansion had yet to be extended. Little has changed by 1888, when the 1st Edition OS Map (fig. 3) depicts the Fort and housing development site as still within one field. The house extension had not been built, and the area proposed for the swimming pool development was laid to paths lined with deciduous trees.

The 2nd Edition OS Map of 1905 (fig. 4) depicts the development of both the house and the gardens. The house has been extended, with a small rectangular building occupying the site of the proposed swimming pool. The gardens have also been greatly enlarged,

taking in much of the Earl of Lisburne's paddock, with formal terracing and path formation together with the planting of large numbers of both deciduous and coniferous trees creating the garden that still exists today. The site of the proposed housing development has been planted with deciduous trees. In the OS map of 1978-80 (fig. 5) the layout of the gardens has changed little, although the site of proposed housing development is planted with coniferous trees and a small building is depicted to the north-east end of the site, in the location of the current car park. The site of the Fort is depicted.

5. Archaeological Evaluation

Three evaluation trenches were proposed (fig. 2): two covering the proposed housing development, with one in the area of former woodland and one in the car park at its north-east end; and one adjacent to the house in the location of the proposed swimming pool. Following consultation with Charles Hill of DAT-HM the swimming pool trench was abandoned due to the depth of made up ground, and replaced by two sondages excavated at each end of the footprint of the proposed development.

The evaluation trenches were excavated over four days in September in generally dry and sunny conditions.

5.1. Trench 1

Trench 1 was located in an area of former woodland 600m to the south-west of the Mansion (see fig. 2). It was 75m long and 1.8m wide (fig. 6 and 7), orientated north-east/south-west along the length of the plot, covering the area of proposed housing development. The trench was excavated down to the natural surface by machine and subsequently cleaned by hand.

The trench varied in depth from 0.98m at the north-east end to 0.47m at the south-west end. At the north-east end the topsoil overlay a deposit of building rubble and post-medieval material, including horseshoes, blue glaze pottery and glass bottle fragments. The building rubble is likely to derive from the 20th century building depicted on the 1977-80 OS map (fig. 5). The building rubble extended for approximately 8m along the trench. The finds and building materials were not retained for further study but were left with the client.

Underlying the building rubble at the north-east end of the trench, and the topsoil along the remainder of the trench, a subsoil deposit (015) containing notable quantities of pottery, charcoal, fired clay and a fragment of glass was identified. This subsoil deposit varied between 0.15m and 0.24m in depth and overlay the natural surface (fig. 8).

Twenty-five metres from the north-east end of the trench a linear feature was identified cut into the natural surface. This comprised a roughly S-shaped ditch feature [005] which emerged from the western side of the trench, then turned 90° to run north-east for 14m and finally turning 90° again to disappear into the eastern edge of the trench (fig. 6 and plate 1). The ditch was 0.86m wide with a shallow U-shaped profile – maximum depth 0.05m. The ditch fill (004) comprised an homogenous yellow/brown silty clay which contained occasional charcoal flecks. There was no evidence to indicate a function for the ditch feature, but it could represent a highly truncated field boundary.

Thirty-five metres further along the trench a spread of rounded river pebbles was identified, sitting in the upper fill of a V-shaped profile ditch [003]. The feature had been disturbed by tree roots on its north-east side, which had destroyed the ditch edge

(fig. 7 and plate 2). On the SW side the ditch sloped gently for 0.5m before a sharp break of slope and a near-vertical drop to a pointed base. The ditch was 1.7m wide and 0.6m deep and was orientated north-west/south-east across the trench. The ditch contained a single fill (004) of yellow/brown clay silt with numerous water-rolled pebbles, the majority of which were identified in the upper 0.05-0.1m of fill. A notable concentration of charcoal was also identified in this upper fill together with sherds of coarse pottery and tile. The ditch fill was sampled for dating. The ditch did not present any immediately apparent evidence for function, however its depth and the steepness of the sides suggests that it may be a robber trench for a ground beam from a building. Alternatively, it may represent a roadside ditch from a phase of road building not visible in the current trench, although the fresh and uneroded nature of the surviving ditch side does suggest that it was not open for a prolonged period of time. Without further investigation of the feature to establish its full extent and form it is not possible to offer a more detailed interpretation.

At 65m from the north-east edge of the trench the denuded remains of a road were identified (001). The road was orientated north-west/south-east and measured 7.3m in width (fig. 6, 7 and 8 and plate 1). The surface was identified 0.05m below the surface and had been badly disturbed by tree roots. It is likely that the road has been truncated by the planting of trees and general gardening activities associated with the Mansion, surviving only to a depth of 0.2m. Following discussions with Charles Hill of DAT-HM it was decided to excavate the section of road using a machine, stripping off thin spits of material, cleaning the subsequent surface back to record and recover finds, until the base of the road was reached.

The north-east side of the road (014) comprised an upper surface of river-rolled pebbles and gravel, overlying a layer of larger water-rolled pebbles lying on the surface of the subsoil (015). The subsoil partly overlay the road edge on the north-east side. Within the matrix of the road a number of iron hob nails, unidentifiable iron pieces and pot sherds were identified. Three of the pot sherds have been identified as Roman (see 6.1 below). The road had a slight but distinct camber to it, rising 0.2m from the subsoil.

The south-west side of the road (013) comprised a fairly loose deposit of shale, pebbles, slate and post-medieval materials including glass, brick and terracotta pot. The deposit was up to 0.1m thick and evidently represents the remains of a post-medieval pathway. It is likely to be a continuation of the Lavender Walk which runs north-west/south-east through the southwestern end of the garden in direct alignment with this path deposit. Although an extension to the Lavender Walk pathway is not depicted on the maps, the archaeological evidence does indicate that it continued into this part of the estate at some stage in the late 19th/early 20th century.

Extending from the southwestern side of the road a thin spread of road material (002) was identified overlying the subsoil (fig. 6 and plates 3 and 5). This contained material similar to that found in the post-medieval pathway, but also included some possible Roman material, and appears to represent a disturbance or erosional deposit. This material is on the downslope side of the pathway and could have washed from the post-medieval path or resulted from tree root disturbance. A large root bole was identified within the subsoil below the deposit, attesting to the level of disturbance that has occurred.

The spread of road material (002) overlay a layer of subsoil (015) containing charcoal and flecks of pottery and fired clay. Underlying this a narrow linear ditch [008] and

large pit [010] were identified, partly cut through the subsoil (fig. 7 and 8 and plates 5, 6, and 7). The linear ditch [008] was shallow, 0.06m deep, with a U-shaped profile. It was 0.37m wide and ran parallel to the line of the road/post-medieval path. The ditch fill comprised a homogenous reddish yellow clay silt (009) containing frequent large charcoal inclusions and numerous flecks of charcoal. The ditch fill was sampled for dating. The pit [010] was located immediately SW of the ditch and appeared to be oval in plan, although only half was revealed in the trench. It was 0.9m in diameter with a shallow bowl-shaped profile, 0.15m deep. Two stakeholes were identified cut through the base of the western side of the pit, these were 0.8m in diameter and 0.5m deep with pointed bases. The lower pit fill (011), which covered the pit base and filled the stakeholes, comprised a greyish brown/yellow silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks. A concentration of larger charcoal pieces was identified in the upper level of the fill, below a flat stone which lay on the upper surface of the fill. Overlying (011) and filling the remainder of the pit, a reddish yellow sandy clay was identified (012). This fill contained frequent charcoal inclusions, including some larger pieces, and occasional chunks of fired clay. Both pit fills were sampled for dating. The ditch is likely to represent the truncated remains of a roadside drainage feature, owing to its proximity to the road and its parallel orientation. The pit is likely to be a feature associated with the road, as indicated by its proximity to the ditch. The concentration of charcoal within the lower fill (011) directly below a largish flat stone is suggestive of deliberate deposition, with the stakeholes perhaps used to support a centrally placed deposit. No evidence of bone or cremated bone was traced, and there were no finds from the lower pit fill, so it is not possible to determine function conclusively. However, the unexcavated remainder of the pit feature could contain further evidence. The upper fill of the pit (012) is similar to the subsoil, with charcoal and fired clay inclusions, although the reddish character of the deposit could indicate that it has been burnt. Pits are commonly found on Roman sites, particularly alongside the roads, and are used for rubbish disposal and the burial of cremated remains. It is not possible to define its function further.

5.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was located in the small car park at the northeastern end of the woodland, 400m to the south-west of the Mansion (see fig. 2). It was 15m in length by 1.8m wide, 0.8m deep, and was orientated north-east/south-west (see plate 8).

The upper 0.6m depth of the trench comprised tarmac, hardcore and demolition rubble including brick, slate and tile. Large fragments of butchered animal bone, glass bottle and blue-glaze pottery were also recovered (with client). The demolition layer overlay the subsoil, which was comparable to (015) in trench 1, containing charcoal and flecks of fired clay. The subsoil was 0.2m deep and overlay the natural. At the northeastern end of the trench a linear cut, 0.25m wide and orientated east/west was identified. This contained gravel and post-medieval material, and was cut through the subsoil. It is likely to be a 20th century service trench. At the SW end of the trench the foundations for the building depicted on the 1977-80 OS map were revealed. These were not investigated.

No archaeological features were revealed and the materials from the trench were left with the client.

5.3 Swimming Pool Area

As discussed above, owing to the ground conditions, two sondages were excavated in the place of the proposed 15m long trench (see fig. 2).

Sondage 1 was positioned at the northeastern end of the site, close to the Mansion wall. It measured 2m by 1m and was excavated to a depth of 2m (see plate 9). The sondage cut through 2m depth of made up ground, comprising redeposited river gravels, slate and post-medieval brick. No archaeological features were revealed and the sondage was abandoned once the depth of the proposed development had been exceeded.

Sondage 2 was positioned 8m to the south-west. It measured 2m by 1m and was excavated to a depth of 1m (see plate 9). The sondage cut through similar redeposited material to that found in sondage 1 to a depth of 0.9m. The natural gravel was encountered below the redeposited materials, but no archaeological features were identified.

6. Finds

6.1 Pottery – Malcolm Lyne

The subsoil (015) yielded 13 sherds (163g.) of mixed Roman and post-medieval pottery. The three Roman sherds comprise one very abraded fragment from a handmade jar in Malvernian fabric R.1 (c.AD 43-250) and two large, less abraded fragments from a jar or other closed form in soft pinkish-red fabric R.3 with patchy external blackening (c.AD 43-150). These sherds cannot be closely dated but are suggestive of earlier rather than later Roman activity. The post-Medieval sherds are from garden pots and were accompanied by three lumps of similarly-dated brick.

The fill of roadside ditch [003], (004), produced seven abraded sherds of handmade Malvernian ware from a possible storage-jar (c.AD 43-250), indicating an early Roman date for the feature.

The Roman road/post-medieval path yielded the most pottery (91 sherds). Most of the fragments are from 19th-to-20th century flowerpots and larger garden pots and indicate disturbance and resurfacing in recent times but the lowest, less-disturbed layers of metalling also produced three Roman fragments. These come from a fine thin-walled beaker in Severn Valley ware fabric R.4 and a closed form in the coarser variant fabric R.2. Once again, close dating is difficult but the fabric R.2 sherd suggests that the road was constructed before the mid-2nd century..

6.2 Building materials

An assemblage of 22 fragments of post-medieval and modern brick and 2 fragments of modern tile were recovered from the subsoil (015), road make up (001) and erosional spread (002). Within the context of the road, the material was recovered predominantly from the upper levels and from the post-medieval pathway. Post-medieval and modern mortar was also recovered from these contexts. The mortar was friable and was therefore not retained..

6.3 Glass

Three shards of glass were recovered from the road materials and the subsoil (015), two fragments of window glass and a shard of vessel glass. The glass has a green tint to it with bubbles evident, and is not modern. Without specialist assessment it is not possible to determine whether it is Roman or medieval/post-medieval.

6.4 Iron objects

A collection of 10 iron objects were recovered from the road make up (001) and erosional spread (002). The iron is heavily corroded and is not modern. Nine of the objects resemble hob nails from boots, the final piece a larger nail or bolt. Assessment

of the material by a specialist would be able to confirm these initial interpretations.

6.5 Daub

An assemblage of 234g of burnt daub/fired clay was recovered from the road make up (001), the subsoil (002) and fill of pit [010]. The daub survives in rounded chunks and is extremely eroded. Further work is unlikely to yield any more information.

7. Discussion and Conclusions

The excavation of evaluation trenches 1 and 2 aimed to confirm the presence or absence of Roman evidence in the development area, given the proximity of the site to a scheduled Roman Fort and Vicus. In particular, they aimed to investigate the possibility that roads leading west from the Fort cut through the development area. This had been suggested by the excavations undertaken by Davies (1985), which also indicated the extension of the Vicus settlement west of the Fort. The trench in the swimming pool area was positioned to investigate the possibility of materials and features contemporary with the construction of the Mansion. None were revealed.

Trench 2 did not reveal any archaeological features, although the identification of subsoil deposits comparable to those in Trench 1, containing charcoal and fired clay, indicates that the Roman use of land around the Fort was extensive. No features were revealed, but it is possible that farming was occurring in the wider landscape, with the spreading of household waste on the fields.

Trench 1 contained the remains of a Roman road, together with two ditches and a large pit. The road was not substantial, no doubt in part due to the extensive tree root disturbance the site has suffered in the last 100 years. The disturbance on the south-west side of the road, with the construction of the post-medieval pathway, makes it impossible to conclusively determine the full width of the original road from the structural evidence. However, the position of ditch [008] on the western side of the road, interpreted as a roadside drainage feature, does demonstrate where the edge could have been, suggesting a tentative road width of around 7m.

Davies' excavations in 1985 revealed the presence of both the Via Principalis and a smaller side road, the Via Quintana, extending north-westwards from the north-west gate of the Fort. These roads ran parallel for at least 40m, with Vicus buildings constructed alongside them both. If the approximate routes of these roads are projected north-westwards, they run almost directly along the line of the Lavender Walk in the gardens, and through the proposed development area. The section of road identified in the evaluation trench is therefore likely to be either the Via Principalis or the Via Quintana. The fact that no second road was identified within the evaluation trench suggests that it could be the Via Quintana, the most north-easterly of the two.

Finds from the site included pottery, both Roman and post-medieval, iron objects, burnt clay/daub and post-medieval and modern building materials. The pottery recovered suggests an early Roman date for the use of the road (see above), which fits with the established history of the site. The iron finds recovered from the surface and structure of the road are characteristic of the use of the road, with hobnails from boots and corroded iron objects perhaps deriving from carts or other vehicles using the road. These would need a full analysis to establish their exact function, which is not within the remit of this project. The chunks of burnt clay daub are suggestive of buildings within the vicinity of the road, buildings that were destroyed and their remains used to construct the road surface.

This, and particularly the burnt nature of the clay daub, corroborates the evidence revealed by Davies (1984) that the first phase Fort at Trawscoed was burnt down and later rebuilt. The recycling of building materials to form metalling for the road reveals the pragmatic nature of the road builders, using whatever materials were to hand.

The excavations by Davies (1985) revealed the presence of wooden buildings alongside the Via Principalis and Via Quintana, extending for at least 40m. While no definitive building remains were identified in the evaluation trench, it is possible that the V-shaped profile ditch [003] formed through the deliberate destruction of a building. The fresh and uneroded nature of the preserved ditch edge demonstrates that it could not have been left open for a prolonged period of time – if this were the case, the sides would have become rounded and slump deposits would have been identified in the base. So, it is unlikely to have functioned as a boundary ditch or drainage feature. Further investigation would be needed to reveal the exact function of the ditch.

The pit [010], adjacent to the roadside ditch, is typical of a Roman roadside feature. Such features commonly contain cremated burials, offerings or domestic waste. The geophysical survey of the Fort and Vicus undertaken by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (Hopewell 2006 and 2007) picked up a number of possible pits along the Via Praetoria and within the Vicus to the north-east of the Fort. The identification of pit [010] does provide evidence that similar concentrations of pits may have occurred along the other roads associated with the Fort, and within the north-western area of the Vicus.

The Roman evidence identified in Trench 1 adds significant information to the corpus of knowledge about Trawscoed Fort and its Vicus, despite the small area covered by the evaluation trench and the rapid nature of the excavation. It is reasonable to assume from the evaluation that the roads identified by Davies (1985) continue northwestwards, and that they attracted pit deposits and probably buildings. The distance of the site from the Fort means that the remains are likely to be on the fringes of the Vicus, rather than within the main settlement area. The periphery of a Vicus settlement is little understood in Roman archaeology, with research generally targeted towards the Forts and core of civilian occupation. As such, any evidence that sheds light on this area of Romano-British life should be considered important.

Understanding the Vicus settlement on this side of the Fort is of added importance following the discovery of the Villa at Abermagwr (Driver 2009). Establishing the date and extent of the settlement will enable the Villa to be interpreted within the wider context of Roman settlement in the Trawscoed area.

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- NMR via Coflein



APPENDIX I: Plates and Illustrations

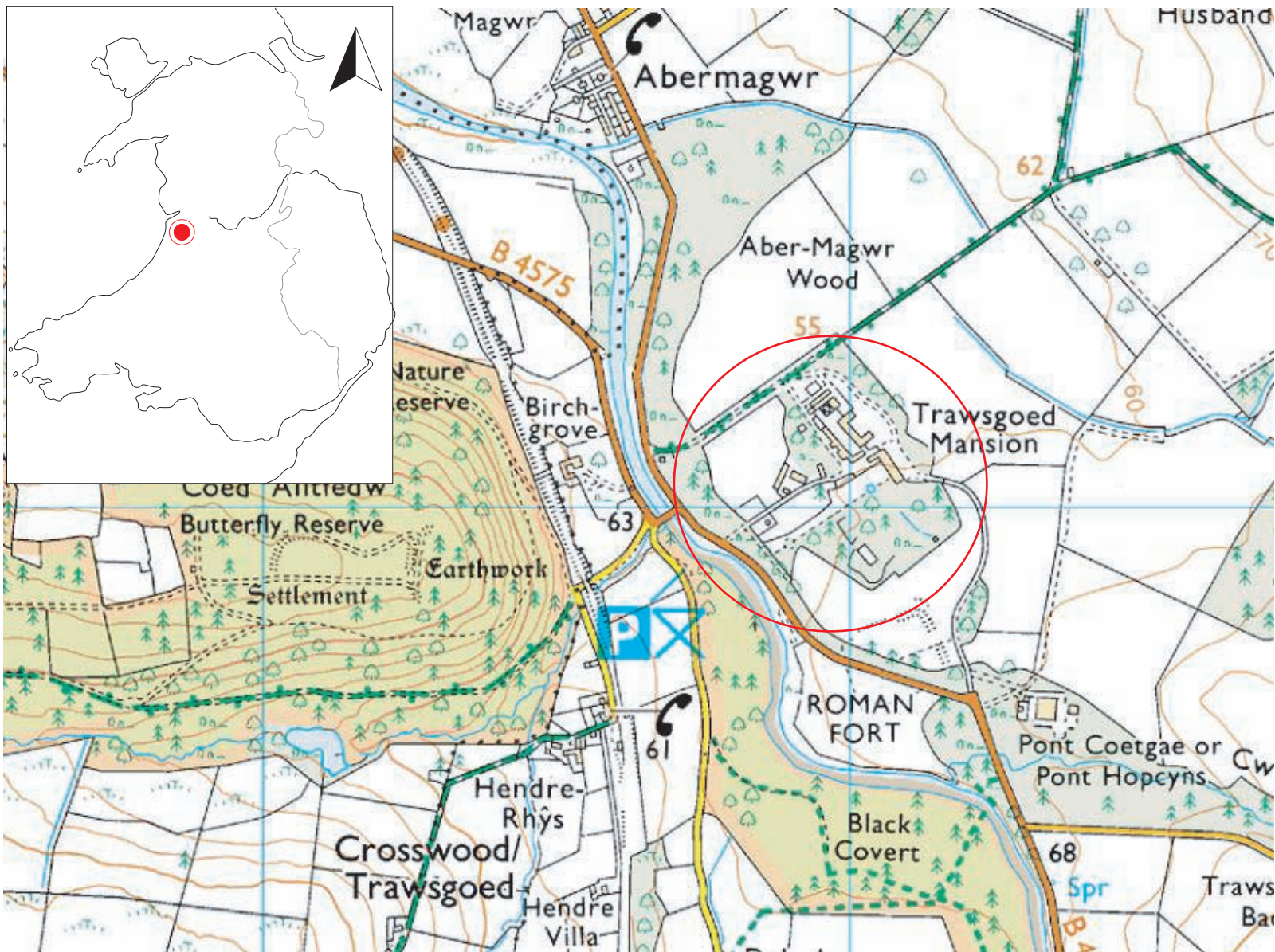


Fig. 1
Location of
Trawsgoed
Mansion

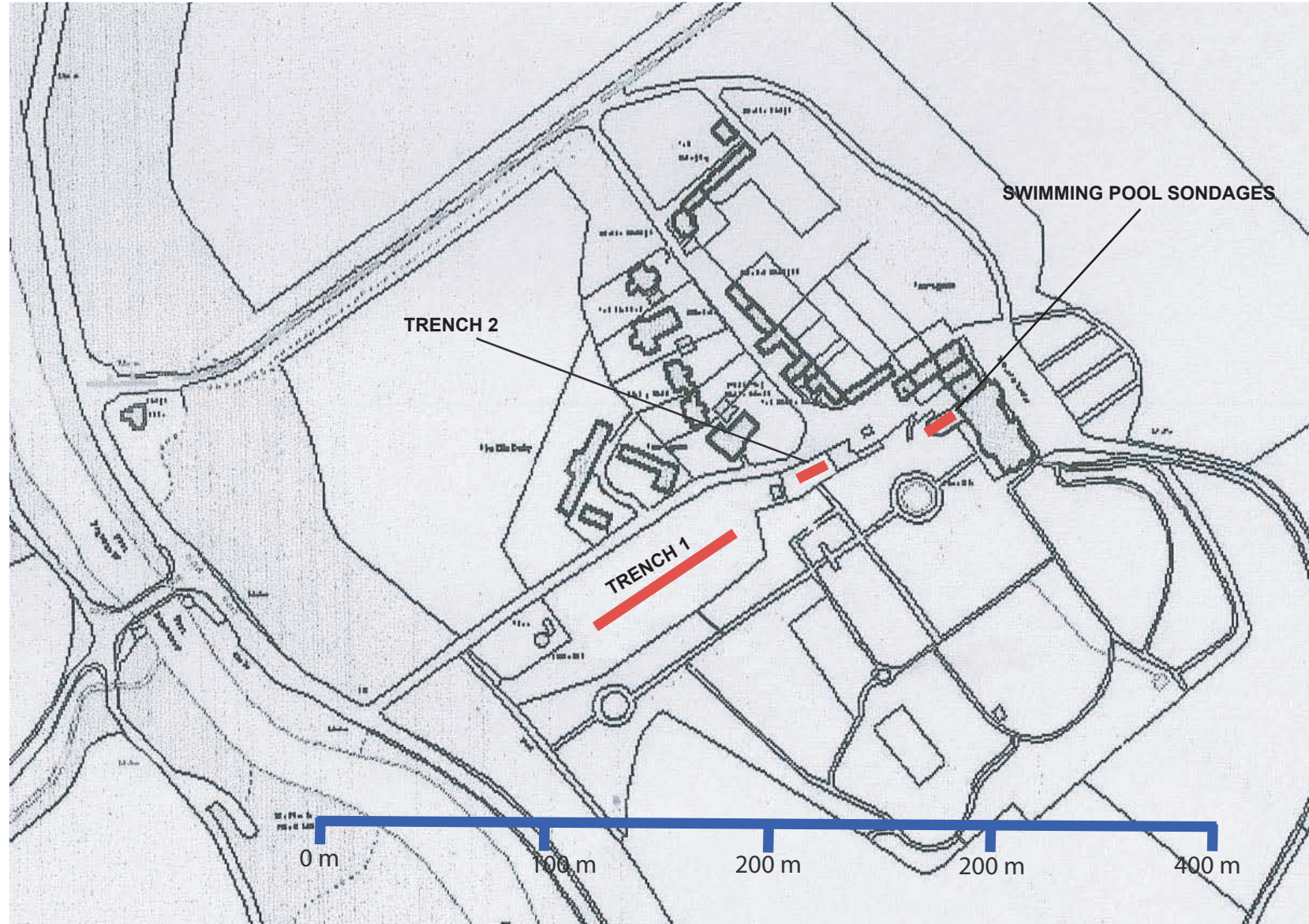


Fig. 2
Trench location
plan

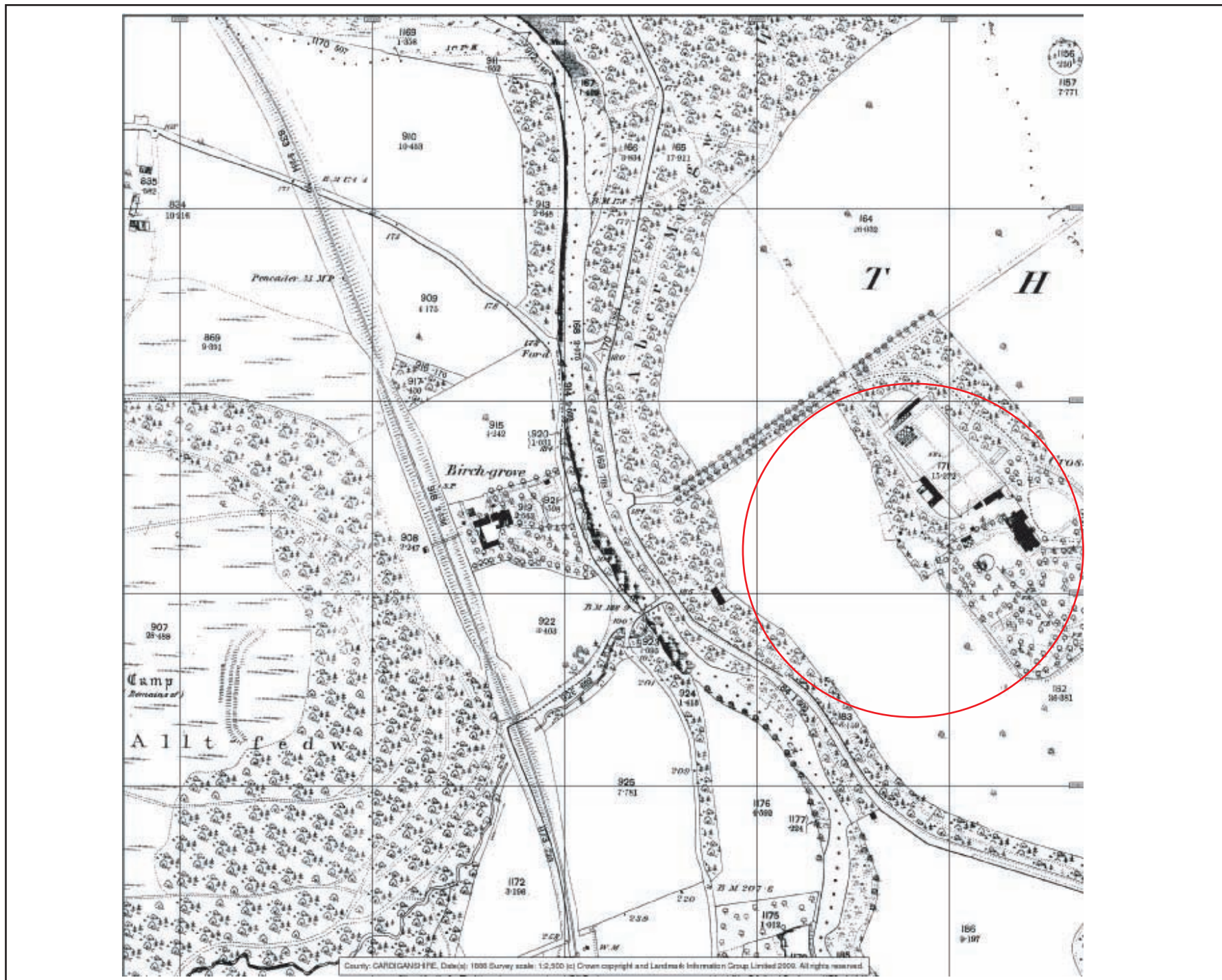


Fig. 3
OS 1st Edition Map
of 1888 showing
location of site

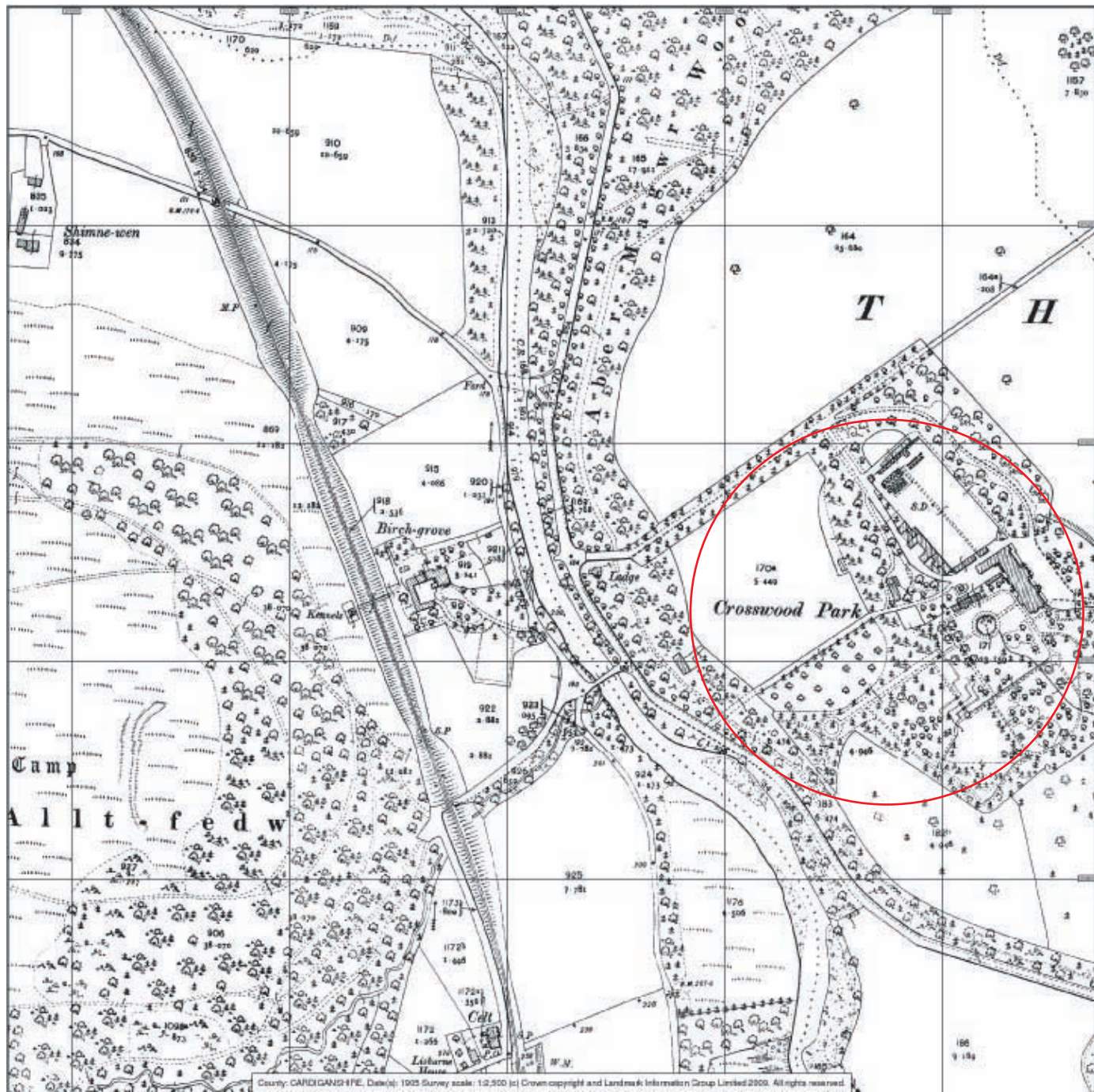


Fig. 4
OS 2nd Edition Map
of 1905 showing
location of site

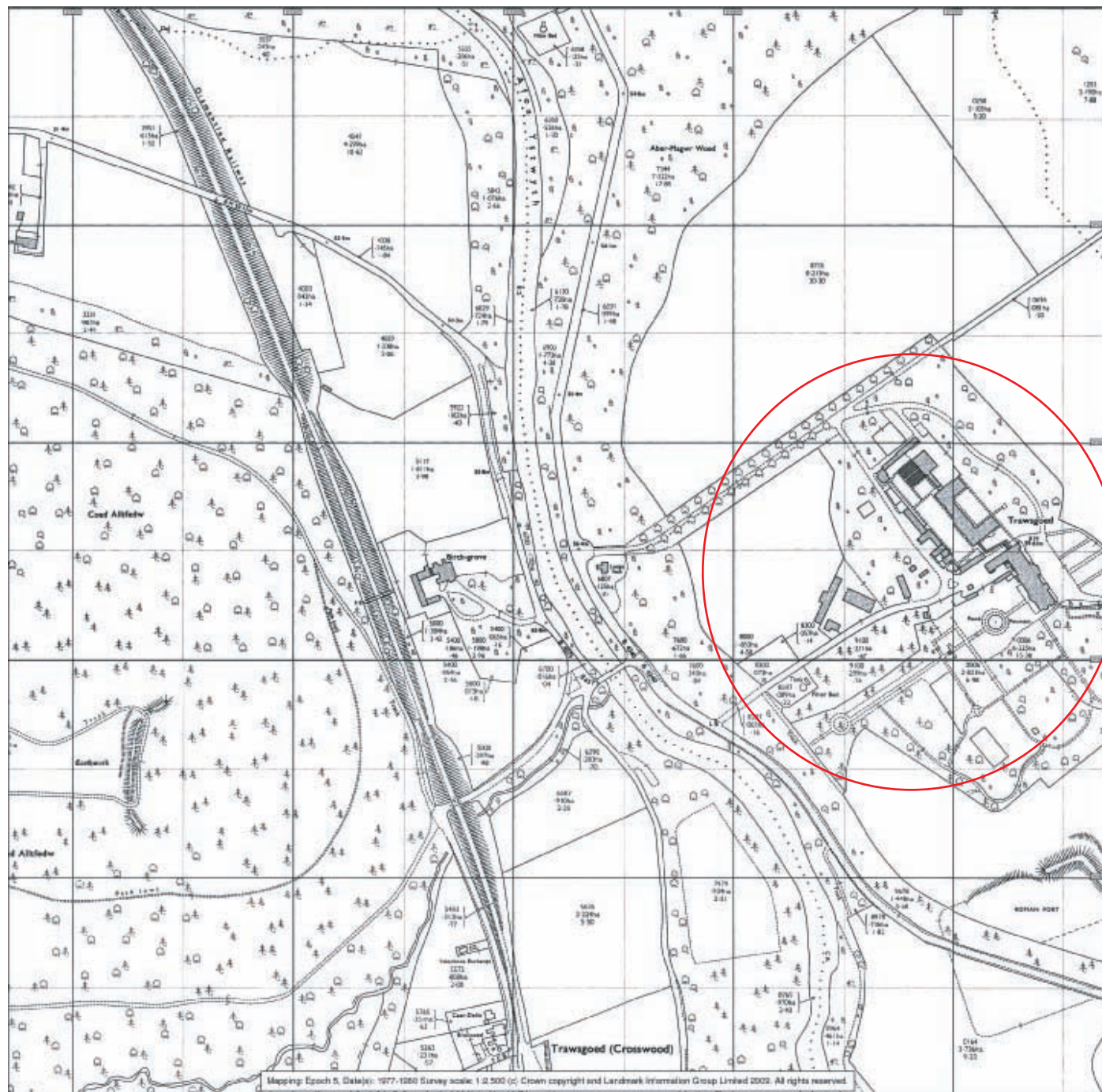
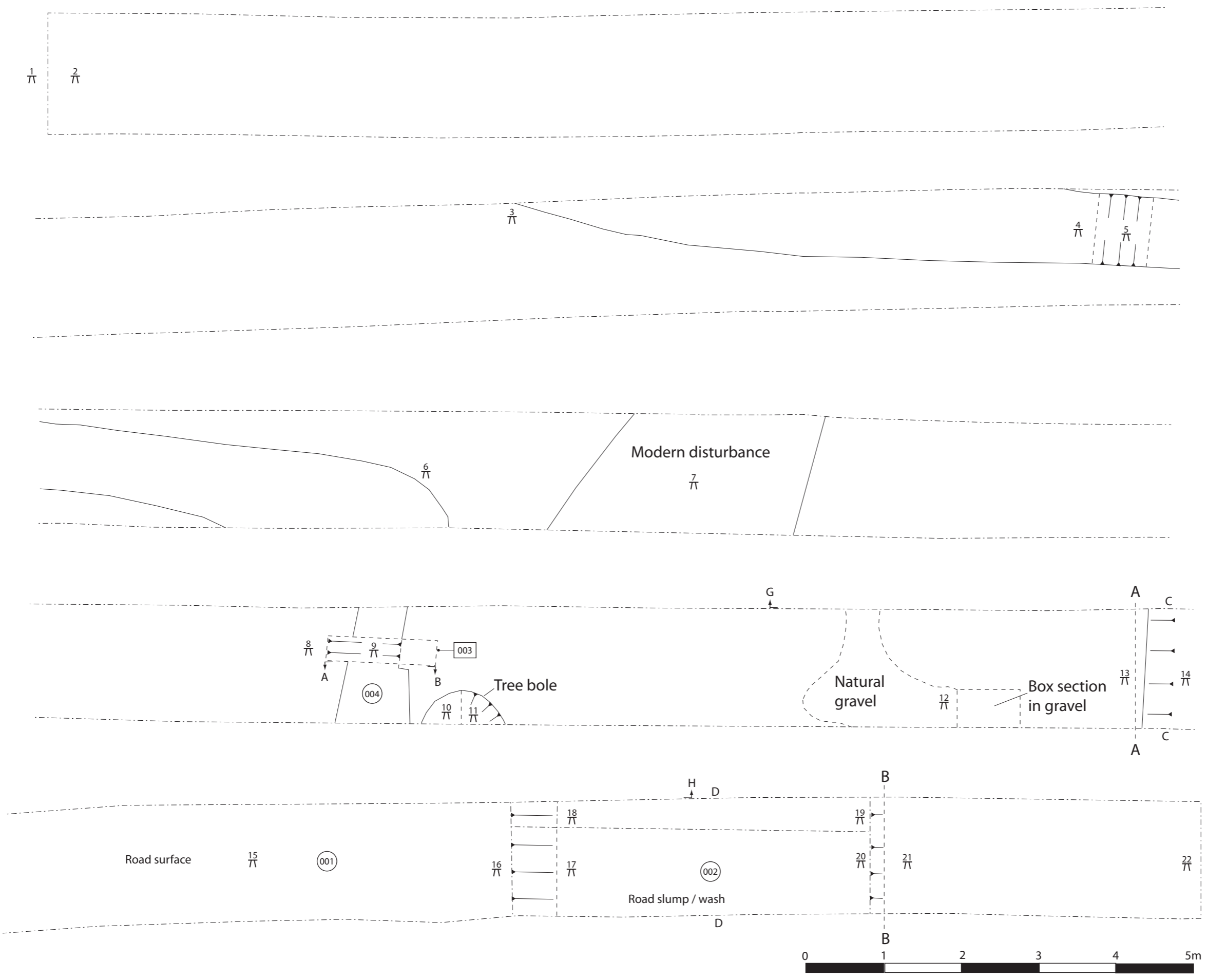


Fig. 5
OS Map of 1978-80
showing
location of site



Job Title: Trawscoed Mansion

Drawing Title: Plan trench 1

Date: 06 October 2009

Drawn By: Irma Bernardus

Scale: 1 : 50 @ A3

Figure 6 : Mid-ex plan Trench 1

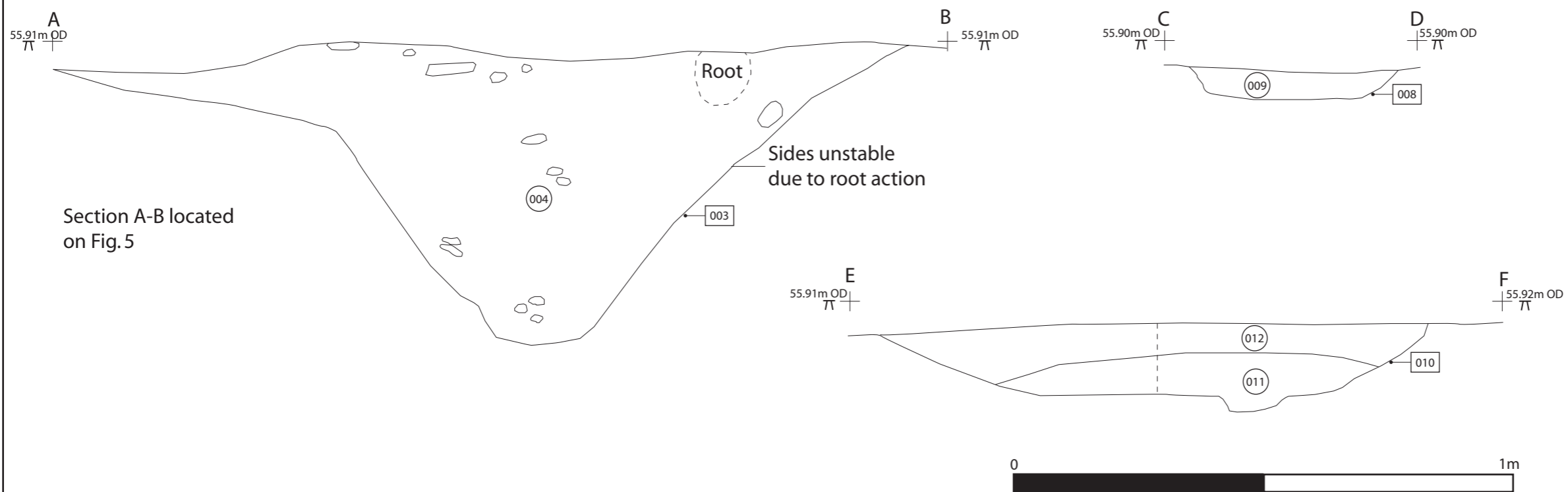
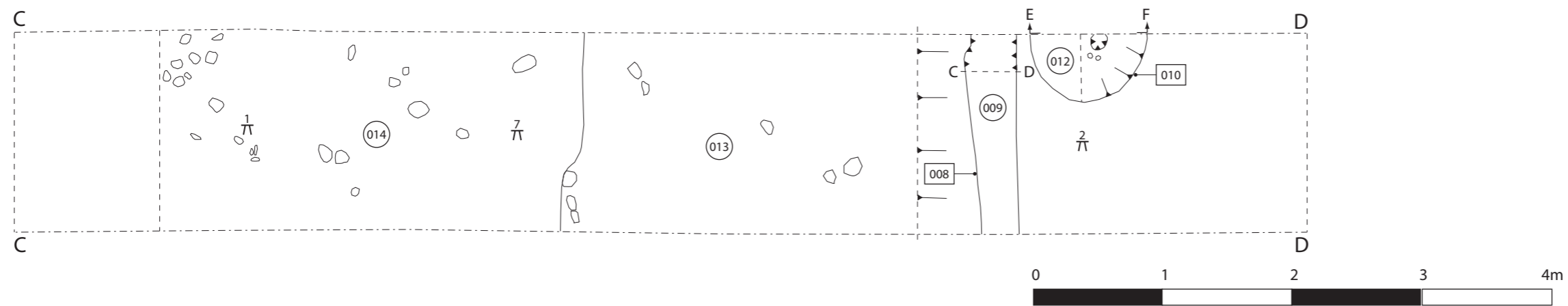




Plan 2: Mid-excavation plan of Roman Road within trench 1



Plan 3: Post-excavation plan of Roman Road, ditch and pit and post-medieval pathway



Job Title: Trawscoed Mansion

Drawing Title: Plan 2,3 & Sections

Date: 07 October 2009

Drawn By: Irma Bernardus

Scale: 1 : 40 & 1 : 10 @ A3

Figure 7: Sections and trench plan



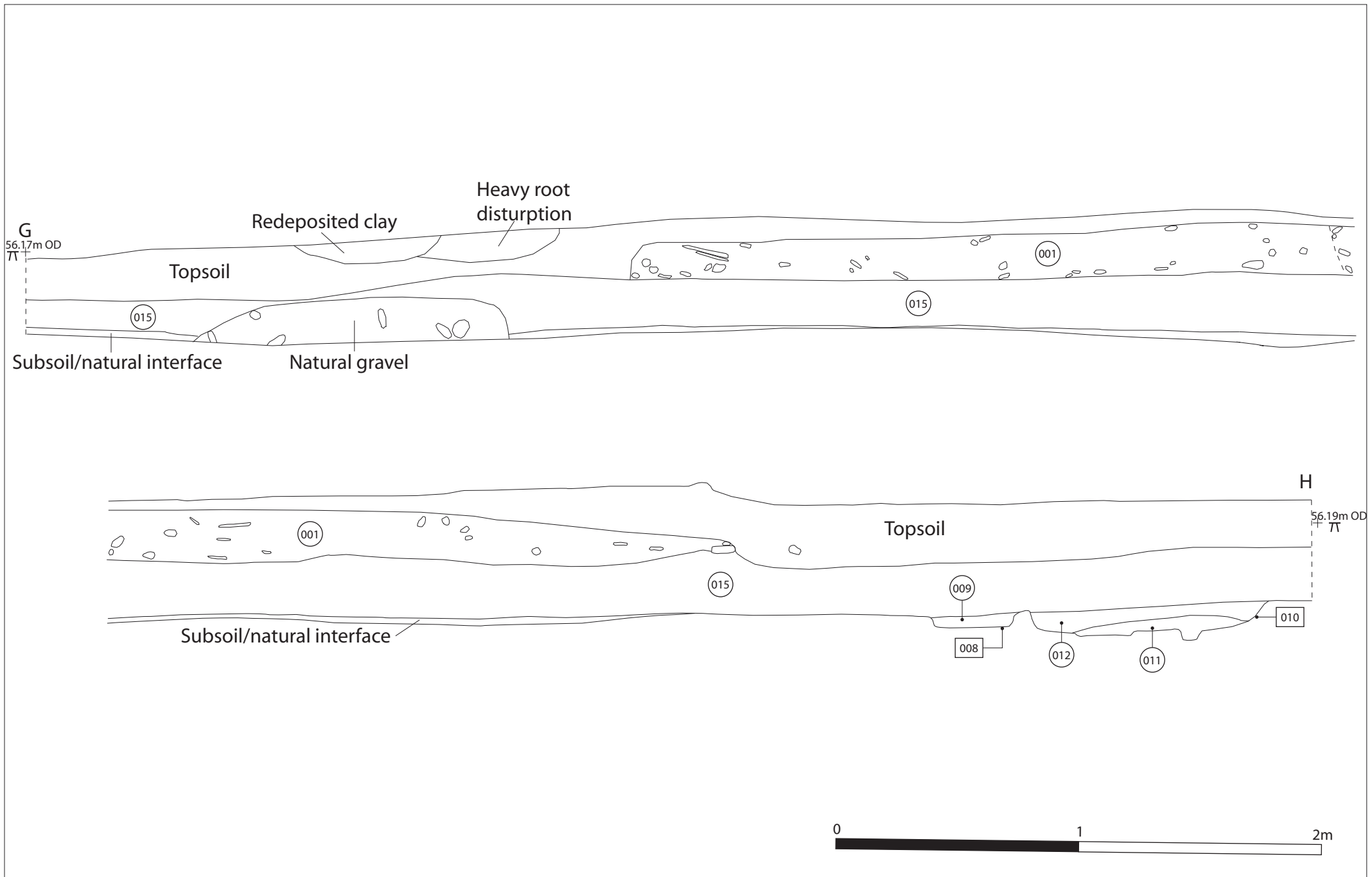


Fig . 8 : Section through Roman road and post-medieval trackway

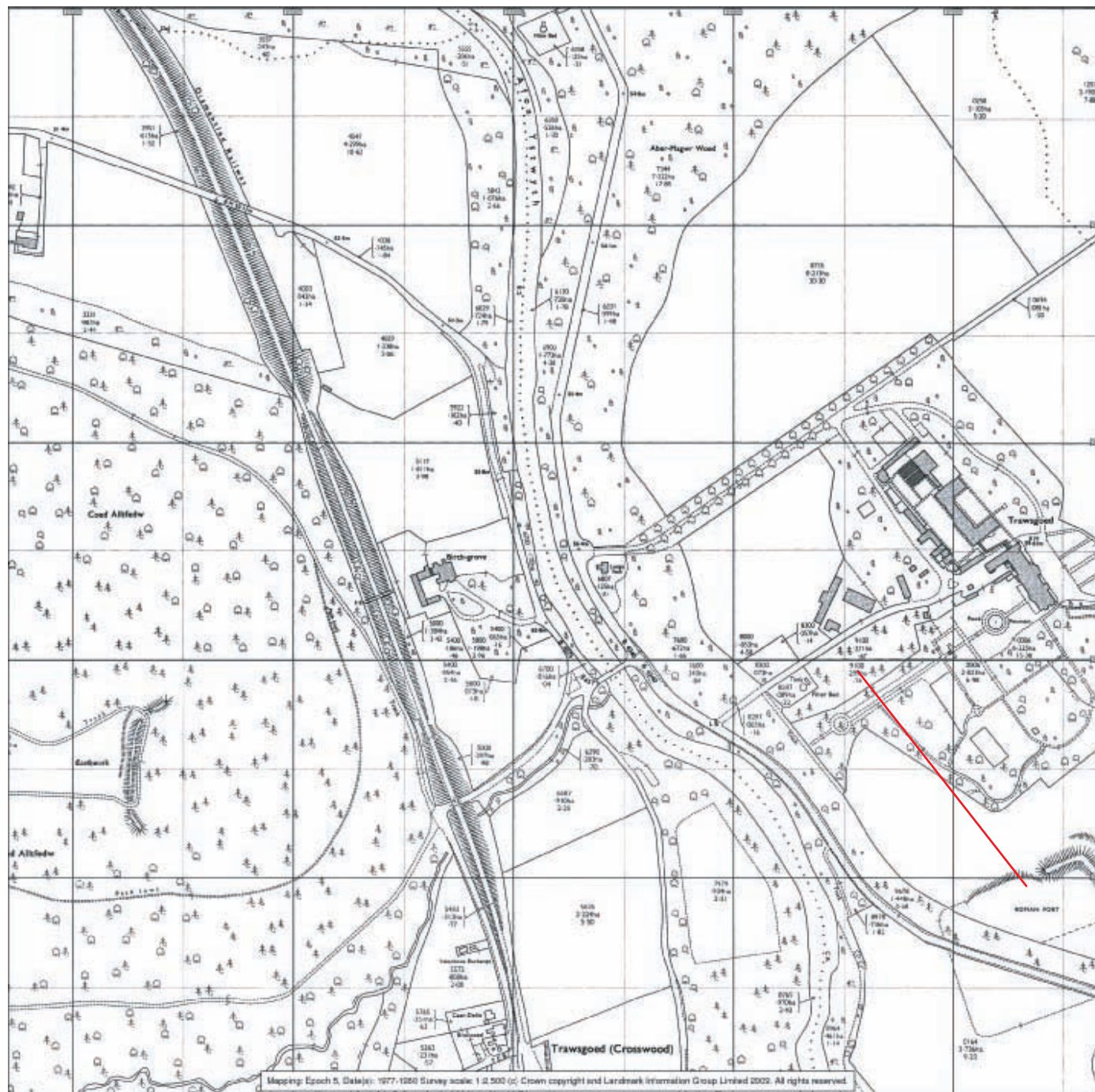


Fig. 9
 OS Map of 1978-80
 showing
 projected line of Via
 Principalis (based
 on results of this
 evaluation)



Fig. 10.
GAT Geophysical Survey
of Trawscoed Roman Fort
(after Hopewell 2007)



Fig. 11.
 GAT Geophysical Survey
 of Trawscoed Roman Fort
 with interpretation
 (after Hopewell 2007)



Plate 1
Trench 1 with
linear feature [005]
Looking NE

Scale = 2m



Plate 2
V-shaped ditch
[003] with root
disturbance on
NE (right) side

Scale = 2m



Plate 3

Roman road [001]
after initial cleaning
with slump deposit
(002) to SW (top)

Scale = 2m



Plate 4
Road slump deposit
(002) with road [001]
to NE (top)

Scale = 2m



Plate 5
Road [001] with
roadside ditch [008]
and charcoal-filled
pit [010] in the
foreground

Scale = 2m



Plate 6
Roadside ditch [008]
and charcoal-filled
pit [010]

Scale = 2m



Plate 7. Section through Roman road, post-medieval track and roadside ditch and pit



Plate 8
Trench 2
Looking NE

Scale = 2m



Sondage 1



Sondage 2

Plate 9
Sondages 1 and 2
in swimming pool
development area

Scale = 2m



APPENDIX II: Finds Catalogue

CAMBRIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECTS LTD.

FINDS CATALOGUE

Site name: Trawscoed Mansion

Site code: TMT/09/EVA

Pottery

No.	Context	Description	Quantity	Weight grams	Kept (K) or Discarded (D)
1	001	19 th – 20 th c. Flowerpot	16	46	K
2	002	19 th – 20 th c. Flowerpot / Garden pot	34	77	K
3	Spit 1	c. 43-250+ Roman	1	1	K
4	Spit 1	19 th – 20 th c. ?Flowerpot	6	14	K
5	Spit 2	19 th – 20 th c. Flowerpot	5	15	K
6	Spit 2	17 th – 19 th c. Red earthenware	1	1	K
7	Spit 3	19 th – 20 th c. Garden pot	13	99	K
8	Spit 4	19 th – 20 th c. Flowerpot / Red Earthenware	4	43	K
9	Spit 5	c. 50 – 300+ Roman	2	2	K
10	Spit 5	19 th – 20 th c. Flowerpot	1	2	K
11	Spit 6	c. 50 – 150 Roman	1	2	K
12	Sondage	10 th – 20 th c. Flowerpot	7	26	K
13	004	c. 43 – 250+ Roman	7	51	K
14	015	c. 43 – 250+ Roman	1	12	K
15	015	c. 43 – 150 Roman	2	67	K

Brick & Tile

No.	Context	Description	Quantity	Weight grams	Kept (K) or Discarded (D)
16	001	Post-med brick	4	57	K
17	002	Post-med tile	1	71	K
18	002	Post-med brick	6	92	K
19	Spit 1	Post-med tile	1	5	K
20	Spit 4	Modern brick	3	38	K
21	Spit 4	Modern tile	2	45	K
22	Sondage	Post-med brick	4	32	K
23	015	Post-med brick	3	213	K

Daub

No.	Context	Description	Quantity	Weight grams	Kept (K) or Discarded (D)
24	001	Fired clay	1	1	K
25	Spit 1	Fired clay	5	30	K
26	Spit 2	Fired clay	6	13	K
27	Spit 3	Fired clay	13	58	K
28	Spit 4	Fired clay	7	49	K
29	Spit 5	Fired clay	3	7	K
30	Sondage	Fired clay	14	60	K
31	012	Fired clay	1	4	K
32	015	Fired clay	3	12	K

Mortar

No.	Context	Description	Quantity	Weight grams	Kept (K) or Discarded (D)
33	001	-	7	8	D
34	Spit 1	-	12	57	D
35	Spit 2	-	10	64	D
36	Spit 3	-	16	111	D
37	Spit 4	-	2	14	D
38	Spit 5	-	1	40	D
40	Sondage	-	21	361	D

Small Finds

No.	Context	Description	Quantity	Weight grams	Kept (K) or Discarded (D)
41	002	Glass – vessel	1	8	K
42	Spit 1	Glass – window	1	1	K
43	015	Glass – window	1	1	K
44	Spit 5	Stone – possibly natural	1	25	?
45	001	Iron object – nail?	1	3	K
46	002	Iron objects – nails?	3	14	K
47	Spit 1	Iron object – nail?	1	3	K
48	Spit 2	Iron object – nail?	1	4	K
49	Sondage	Iron objects – nails?	4	26	K



APPENDIX III: Pottery Report

AN ASSESSMENT OF THE POTTERY FROM TRAWSCOED MANSION NEAR ABERYSTWYTH (TCM/09/EVA)

By Malcolm Lyne

1. Introduction

The site yielded 111 sherds (542g.) of pottery from 11 contexts. Most of the sherds (97) are late 19th-to-early 20th c. in date but there are also 14 early Roman sherds from the lower road make-up, subsoil and fill of roadside ditch 003. The assemblages also include 22 fragments of post-medieval tile and brick and 53 lumps of fired clay.

2. Methodology.

All of the assemblages were quantified by numbers of sherds and their weights per fabric. These fabrics were identified using a x8 magnification lens with built in metric graticule for determining the natures, forms, sizes and frequencies of added filler inclusions: two numbered fabric series were then drawn up with the prefixes R and PM for Roman and Post-Medieval wares respectively. None of the pottery assemblages are large enough for further quantification by Estimated Vessel Equivalents (EVEs) based on rim sherds.

3. The Assemblages.

The subsoil (Context 015) yielded 13 sherds (163g.) of mixed Roman and post-Medieval pottery. The three Roman sherds comprise one very abraded fragment from a handmade jar in Malvernian fabric R.1 (c.43-250) and two large, less abraded fragments from a jar or other closed form in soft pinkish-red fabric R.3 with patchy external blackening (c.43-150). These sherds cannot be closely dated but are suggestive of earlier rather than later Roman activity. The post-Medieval sherds are from garden pots and were accompanied by three lumps of similarly-dated brick.

The fill of roadside ditch 003 (Context 004) produced seven abraded sherds of handmade Malvernian ware from a ?storage-jar (c.43-250) and indicating an early Roman date for the feature.

The Roman road/post-Medieval path yielded the most pottery (91 sherds). Most of the fragments are from 19th-to-20th c. flowerpots and larger garden pots and indicate disturbance and resurfacing in recent times but the lowest, less-disturbed layers of metalling also produced three Roman fragments: these come from a fine thin-walled beaker in Severn Valley ware fabric R.4 and a closed form in the coarser variant fabric R.2. Once again, close dating is difficult but the fabric R.2 sherd suggests that the road was constructed before the mid-2nd century.

4. Recommendations

It is recommended that the pottery from this site be written-up as a brief note without recourse to illustration.

Appendix 1.

Fabrics

Roman

- R.1. Malvernian ware with metamorphic rock inclusions.
- R.2. Hard pink Severn-valley ware variant with large rounded <1.00mm soft reddish-brown ferrous and smaller black inclusions
- R.3. Soft pinkish-red fabric with profuse 0.30 to 0.50mm. quartz and dark ferrous inclusions and patchy external fuming.
- R.4. Hard smooth silty Severn Valley ware variant fired light pink-orange.

Post-Medieval

- PM.1. Silty pinkish-red to pinkish-brown earthenware
- PM.2. Similar but with internal green-glaze
- PM.3A. Similar but with 0.10<0.50mm. white felspathic and black inclusions
- PM.3B. Similar but with coarser <2.00mm. white felspathic and dark rock inclusions

Appendix 2.

Catalogue

Context	Fabric	Form	Date-range	No of sherds	Wt.in gm	Comments
001	PM.1	Flowerpot	19 th -20 th c.	15	45	Fresh
	PM.3A	Flowerpot	19 th -20 th c.	1	1	Fresh
	Brick		Post-med	2	7	Abraded
	Fir clay			1	1	Abraded
			19 th -20 th c	16	46g	Road surface. Tr.1
002	PM.1	Flowerpot	19 th -20 th c.	26	49	Fresh
	PM.3A	Flowerpot	19 th -20 th c.	7	13	Fresh
		Garden pots	19 th -20 th c.	1	15	Fresh
	Tile		Post-med	1	71	Fresh
	Brick		Post-med	6	92	Abraded
			19 th -20 th c.	34	77g	Road slump. Tr.1
Spit 1	R.1	?	c.43-250+	1	1	Abraded
	PM.1	?Flowerpot	19 th -20 th c.	6	14	
	Tile		Post-med	1	5	Fresh
	Fir clay			5	30	
			19 th -20 th c.	7	15g	Roman road/Post-Med path.
Spit 2	PM.1	Flower-pot	19 th -20 th c.	5	15	Fresh
	PM.2	Open form	17 th -19 th c.	1	1	Fresh
	Fir.clay			6	13	
			19 th -20 th c.	6	16g	Roman road/Post-Med path
Spit 3	PM.1	Garden pots	19 th -20 th c.	11	54	Fresh
	PM.3B	Garden pots	19 th -20 th c.	2	45	Fresh
	Fir.clay			13	58	
			19 th -20 th c.	13	99g	Roman road/Post-Med path
Spit 4	PM.1	?Flowerpot	19 th -20 th c.	3	40	Fresh
	PM.3A	?	19 th -20 th c.	1	3	Fresh
	Tile			2	45	Fresh
	Brick			3	38	Abraded
	Fir.clay			7	49	
			19 th -20 th c.	4	43g	Roman road/Post-Med path
Spit 5	R.4	Closed form	c.50-300+	2	2	Fresh
	PM.1	Flower-pot	19 th -20 th c.	1	2	Fresh
	Fir.clay			3	7	
			Roman/19 th -20 th c.	3	4g.	Roman road/Post-Med path
Spit 6	R.2	Closed	c.50-150	1	2g	Roman road/Post-Med path
Sondage	PM.1	Flowerpot	19 th -20 th c.	5	19	Fr. ...ELL NU... stamp
	PM.3A	Flowerpot	19 th -20 th c.	2	7	Fresh
	Brick		Post-med	4	32	Fresh
	Fir.clay			14	60	
			19 th -20 th c.	7	26g	Roman road/Post-Med path
004	R.1	?Storage jar	c.AD.43-250+	7	51	v.abraded
	Fir.clay			2	9	
			Early Roman	7	51g	Fill of Ditch 003
015	R.1	Closed	c.43-250+	1	12	Very abraded
	R.3	Closed	c.43-150	2	67	Abraded. 1 pot
	PM.1	Garden pots	19 th -20 th c.	10	84	Fresh
	Brick		Post-med	3	213	Abraded
	Fir.clay			3	12	
			Early Roman/19 th -20 th c.	13	163g	Subsoil



APPENDIX IV: Contexts and Levels

Site Code: TMT/EVAL/09**Context Record**

Context No.	Description	Interpretation	Length	Width	Depth	Provisional Period
1	Road surface comprising compact layers of river-rolled pebbles and gravel. Finds include pot and probably iron hob nails, glass, mortar and concrete. Severely disturbed by tree root action from plantation.	Probable Roman road, highly disturbed by post-med tree planting and garden development – probable extension of 'lavender walk' path through SW end road destroyed original surface at this end.	1.8m (trench)	7.3m (max)	0.2m	Roman/post-medieval
2	Spread of road material including pot and some metal on SW side of road. Very disturbed with intrusive modern material.	Erosional deposit from surface of road	1.8m (trench)	4.2m	0.05m	Roman/post-medieval
3	V-shaped ditch with severe root disturbance in NE side. On SW side cut slopes gently before sharp break of slope and near vertical sides drop to pointed base. Parallel with road, c. 5m to NE.	V-shaped ditch.	0.3m (slot)	1.7m	0.6m	Roman
4	Yellow-brown clay silt containing numerous water-rolled pebbles and charcoal flecks. Noted concentration of charcoal between 0.05-0.1m, below spread of stones in upper fill. Sherds of coarse pot and tile recovered from stone layer in upper fill.	Single fill of V-shaped ditch [003]	0.3m	1.7m	0.6m	Roman
5	Slightly S-shaped cut, curving at each end at edge of trench. Very shallow, U-shaped in profile	Highly truncated linear ditch	14m	0.86m	0.07m	Pre-Roman

6	Homogenous yellow brown silty clay.	Single fill of ditch [005]	14m	0.86m	0.07m	Pre-Roman
7	Same as 001	Road deposit				
8	Shallow U-shaped linear ditch running along SW side of road.	Heavily truncated roadside drainage ditch	1.8m (trench)	0.37m	0.06m	Roman
9	Reddish yellow clay silt with frequent charcoal including some large pieces.	Single fill of ditch [008]	1.8m (trench)	0.37m	0.06m	Roman
10	Oval pit only partly revealed in trench. Shallow sides with undulating base, bowl-shaped. Two stakeholes cut through base. Adjacent to ditch [009]	Shallow oval pit	0.9m (diam.)		0.15m	Roman
11	Grey/brown/yellow silty clay with concentration of charcoal in upper fill including some larger pieces. Fill extends into stakeholes in base of pit	Lower fill of pit [010]	0.9m		0.05m	Roman
12	Yellow/red sandy silt with frequent charcoal inclusions and occasional inclusions of fired clay. Large flat stone in lower fill	Upper fill of pit [010]	0.9m		0.1m	Roman
13	Deposit of shale, pebbles, slate and post-med materials forming pathway. Some probable Roman material mixed in suggesting disturbance to Roman road deposit	Post-medieval garden path, extension of Lavender walk in main garden	1.8m	3.2m	0.05m	Post-med
14	Layer of water-rolled pebbles and gravel forming disturbed remains of Roman road. Pot, iron hob nails, mortar and cement recovered, with particular concentration of	Degraded and disturbed lower levels of Roman road	1.8m	4m	0.05m	Roman

	building materials in NW corner of deposit (excavated in sondage)					
15	Compact yellow/brown clay silt with inclusions of charcoal, pot, fired clay and glass.	Subsoil – Roman soil horizon? Extends below road	75m	1.8m	0.28m	Roman?

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Site name: Trawscoed Mansion

Site code: TCM/09/EVA

TBM/OD ht: 56.45m

Actual Height levels trench 1

1 = 56.48m	12 = 55.92m
2 = 55.65m	13 = 55.96m
3 = 55.78m	14 = 56.15m
4 = 55.91m	15 = 56.14m
5 = 55.97m	16 = 56.21m
6 = 55.97m	17 = 56.14m
7 = 55.98m	18 = 56.07m
8 = 55.80m	19 = 56.15m
9 = 55.22m	20 = 56.15m
10 = 55.85m	21 = 55.91m
11 = 55.79m	22 = 55.96m

Plan 3

1 = 56.08m
2 = 55.88m
7 = 56.07m

Section C – D

3 = 55.90m
4 = 55.90m

Section E – F

5 = 55.91m
6 = 55.92m

Section G – H

8 = 56.17m
9 = 56.19m



APPENDIX V: Archive Summary

ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

Site Name: Trawscoed Mansion, Ceredigion

Site code: TMT/09/EVAL

PRN: -

NPRN: -

SAM: -

Other Ref No.: CAP Report No. 593

NGR: SN 66922 73002

Site Type: Proposed Housing Development

Project Type: Archaeological DBA and Evaluation

Project Manager: Dr Amelia Pannett MIFA

Project Dates: September 2009

Categories Present: -

Location of original archive: CAP Offices

Location of duplicate archive: -

Number of finds boxes: -

Location of finds: -

Museum Reference: -

Copyright: CAP

Restrictions to Access: None



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