

# Land at Llwynhelig Vale of Glamorgan Cowbridge Wales

*Archaeological Watching Brief*



for  
Bowler Eggs

on behalf of  
Mr John Homfray

CA Project: 6740  
CA Report: 6740\_1

May 2019



# Land at Llwynhelig Vale of Glamorgan Cowbridge Wales

## Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 6740  
CA Report: 6740\_1



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## CONTENTS

SUMMARY .....	2
1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	3
3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	4
4. METHODOLOGY .....	5
5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3).....	5
6. DISCUSSION.....	6
7. CA PROJECT TEAM.....	6
8. REFERENCES.....	6
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS .....	7
APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM.....	7

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)  
Fig. 2 Site, showing location of observed groundworks (1:500)  
Fig. 3 Photographs



## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	Land at Llwynhelig
<b>Location:</b>	Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan, Wales
<b>NGR:</b>	298879 175135
<b>Type:</b>	Watching Brief
<b>Date:</b>	02 – 04 April 2019
<b>Planning Reference:</b>	2016/00080/FUL
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with the National Museum of Wales
<b>Site Code:</b>	LCOW 19

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the erection of an agricultural building on land at Llwynhelig, Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan, Wales.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In April 2019 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Bowler Eggs on behalf of Mr John Homfray on land at Llwynhelig, Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan, Wales (centred at NGR: 298655 175289; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent, granted by the Vale of Glamorgan Council (VGC), for the construction of an agricultural building and associated infrastructure (VGC planning ref: 2016/00080/FUL, Condition 7).
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2018) and approved by the Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT), the archaeological advisor to Vale of Glamorgan Council (VGC). The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014).

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The proposed development area measured roughly 0.25ha in extent and was sited within an open field. To the south of site was the continuation of this field and in all other directions the site was bounded by open fields. The site sloped from c.19m AOD in the north to c.17m AOD in the south.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Friars Point Limestone Formation, sedimentary bedrock of the Carboniferous Period (BGS 2019). The natural geological substrate was identified in the south-western and south-eastern extents of the observed groundworks and consisted of a mid-yellow clay-silt.

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site was subjected to an archaeological and heritage assessment (ACD Environmental 2016). In addition, previous development at Darren's Farm, approximately 0.8km south of site, required the completion of archaeological work including several geophysical surveys (GSB 1999 and 2001; AOC 2014), trial trenching (NA 2002) and a desk-based assessment (CA 2014). The following is a summary of these programmes of work and other pertinent sources of publically obtainable information.

- 2.2 Possible remains of a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age enclosure were recorded during trial trenching at Darren's Farm, south of site (NA 2002). Multiple find spots of prehistoric date have also been recorded within the surrounding area, including worked flint, a sword fragment, brooch, a Bronze Age axehead and a Dubonnic stater coin (ACD 2016).
- 2.3 The historical centre of Cowbridge town is Roman in origin, recorded as early as 1st century AD. The main Roman road of this settlement follows the current course of Cowbridge High Street and following to what is now the A48. A geophysical survey south of the main road identified an extensive landscape of ditches and other features, likely Roman and medieval in date (*ibid.*). A possible Romano-British farmstead was also identified c. 500m at Darren's Farm. This farmstead is recorded to have possible Iron Age origins, with its use continuing into the early medieval period (CA 2014).
- 2.4 Cowbridge town later developed to be one of the most important in Wales in the 14th century, with its own defensive wall (ACD 2016)
- 2.5 The church of St Brynach (located c. 500m to the southwest of site) is thought to have formed the focus for a former medieval settlement. A possible medieval mill, with associated remains, and a medieval trackway are postulated to lie to the east of the church. Trial trenching completed at Darren's Farm (NA 2002) showed that a large number of linear geophysical anomalies, formerly interpreted as field system remains (GSB 1999 and 2001), were in fact of geological origin (NA 2002).
- 2.6 A First Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1885 notes a quarry on the edge of the field where the site is located, west of the proposed building. Historic mapping also notes boundary changes to the surrounding fields.

### 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks;

- at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

#### **4. METHODOLOGY**

- 4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2018). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks, which incorporated the reduction and levelling of the proposed building footprint, covering an area of 2,500m<sup>2</sup>. Groundworks were undertaken to variable depths across the building footprint, with limited excavation in the northern extent; the natural substrate was only observed in the south-western and south-eastern extents of the area.
- 4.2 The site archive will be deposited with the National Museum of Wales. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the National Monuments Record of Wales (NMRW) maintained by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) in accordance with RCAHMW guidelines. This will include the upload of a digital (PDF) copy of the final report which will appear on the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) website once the NMRW record has been verified.

#### **5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3)**

- 5.1 The natural geological substrate, 102, consisting of clay-silt, was typically encountered at a depth of between 1.2m and 0.53m below present ground level (bpgl), within the south-western and south-eastern extents of the observed groundworks (see Fig. 2 for location and extent). It was sealed by silty-sand colluvium, 101, containing rare manganese and charcoal flecks, which measured an average of 0.44m in thickness, which was in turn overlain by silty-sand topsoil, 100, measuring approximately 0.25m in thickness.
- 5.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material was recovered.

## 6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above), the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. The absence of archaeological deposits may indicate that the remains associated with the nearby prehistoric, Roman or medieval activity did not extend as far as the current site.

## 7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Francesco Catanzaro. The report was written by Francesco Catanzaro. The illustrations were prepared by Ryan Wilson. The archive has been compiled by Francesco Catanzaro, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Ian Barnes and Alex Thomson.

## 8. REFERENCES

ACD Environmental 2016 *Land at Llwynhelig Farm, Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan - Archaeology and Heritage Assessment*

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2019 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 10 April 2019

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 *Darren Farm, Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan: Heritage Desk-Based Assessment*, CA Report ref: **14410**

CA 2018 *Land at Llwynhelig, Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan, Wales: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*.

GSB Prospection 1999 *Geophysical Survey Report: Darren Farm, Cowbridge*

GSB Prospection 2001 *Geophysical Survey Report: Darren Farm, Cowbridge II*

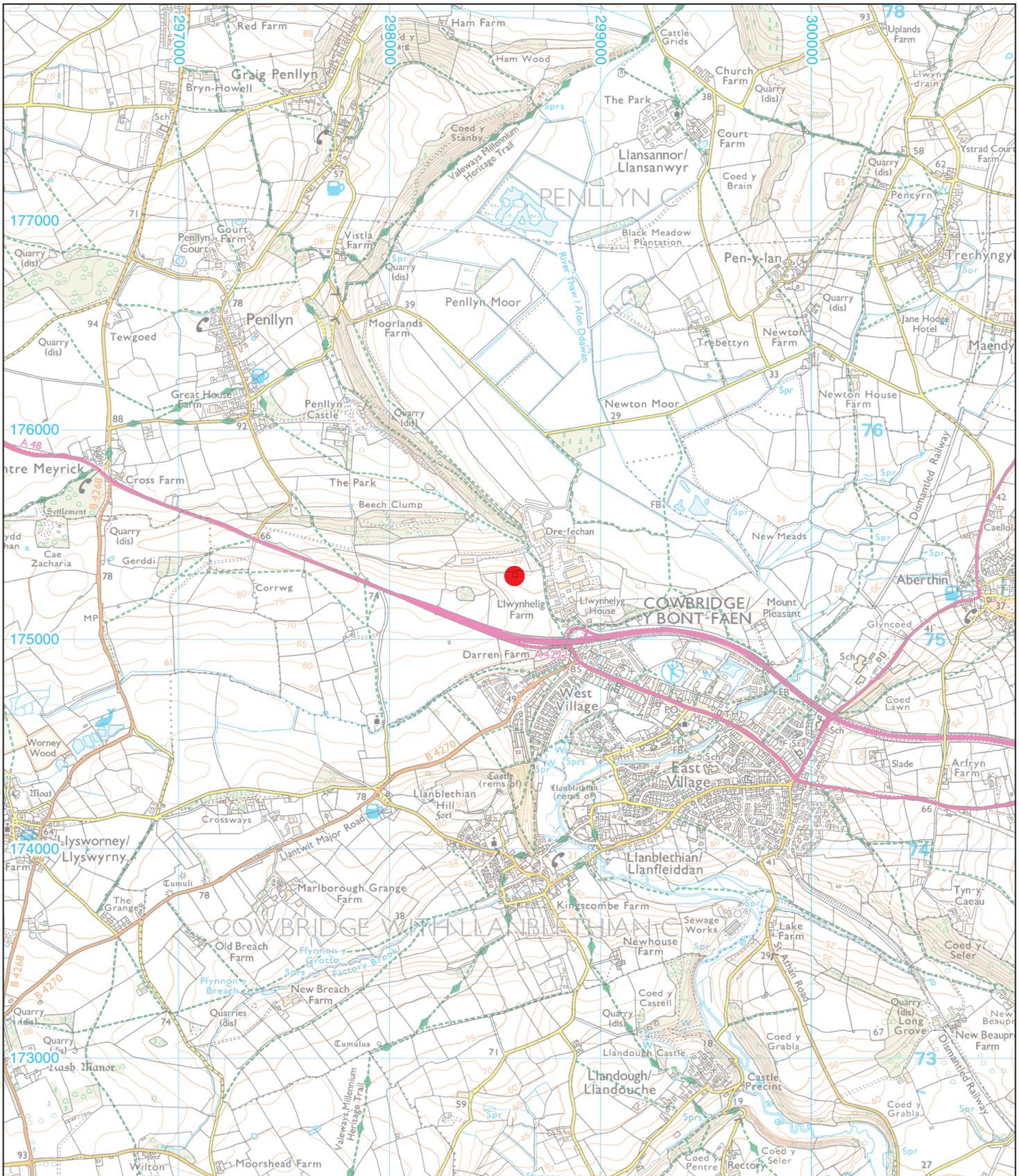
NA (Northamptonshire Archaeology) 2002 *Archaeological Trial Trenching at Darren Farm, Cowbridge*

## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context	Type	Context Interpretation	Context Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/ Thickness (m)
1	100	Layer	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty sand; occasional limestones, rooting	>100	>25	0.25
1	101	Layer	Colluvium	Mid brown silty sand; rare pebbles, flecks of charcoal and Manganese	>100	>25	1
1	102	Layer	Natural Substrate	Mid yellow clayey silt; diffused patches of mid brown silty sand	>100	>25	

## APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS	
Project Name	Land at Llwynhelig, Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan, Wales
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the erection of an agricultural building on land at Llwynhelig, Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan, Wales.  No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.
Project dates	2-4 April 2019
Project type	Watching Brief
Previous work	None
Future work	Unknown
PROJECT LOCATION	
Site Location	Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan, Wales
Study area	0.27ha
Site co-ordinates	298655 175289
PROJECT CREATORS	
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology
Project Brief originator	N/A
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology
Project Manager	Ian Barnes and Alex Thomson
Project Supervisor	Francesco Catanzaro
MONUMENT TYPE	
None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	
None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	
Intended final location of archive	Site Archive
Physical	N/A
Paper	To be deposited with National Museum of Wales
Digital	To be deposited with National Museum of Wales
Recording Forms; photo registers	Recording Forms; photo registers
BIBLIOGRAPHY	
CA (Cotswold Archaeology), 2019, <i>Land at Llwynhelig, Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan, Wales: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report <b>6740_1</b>	



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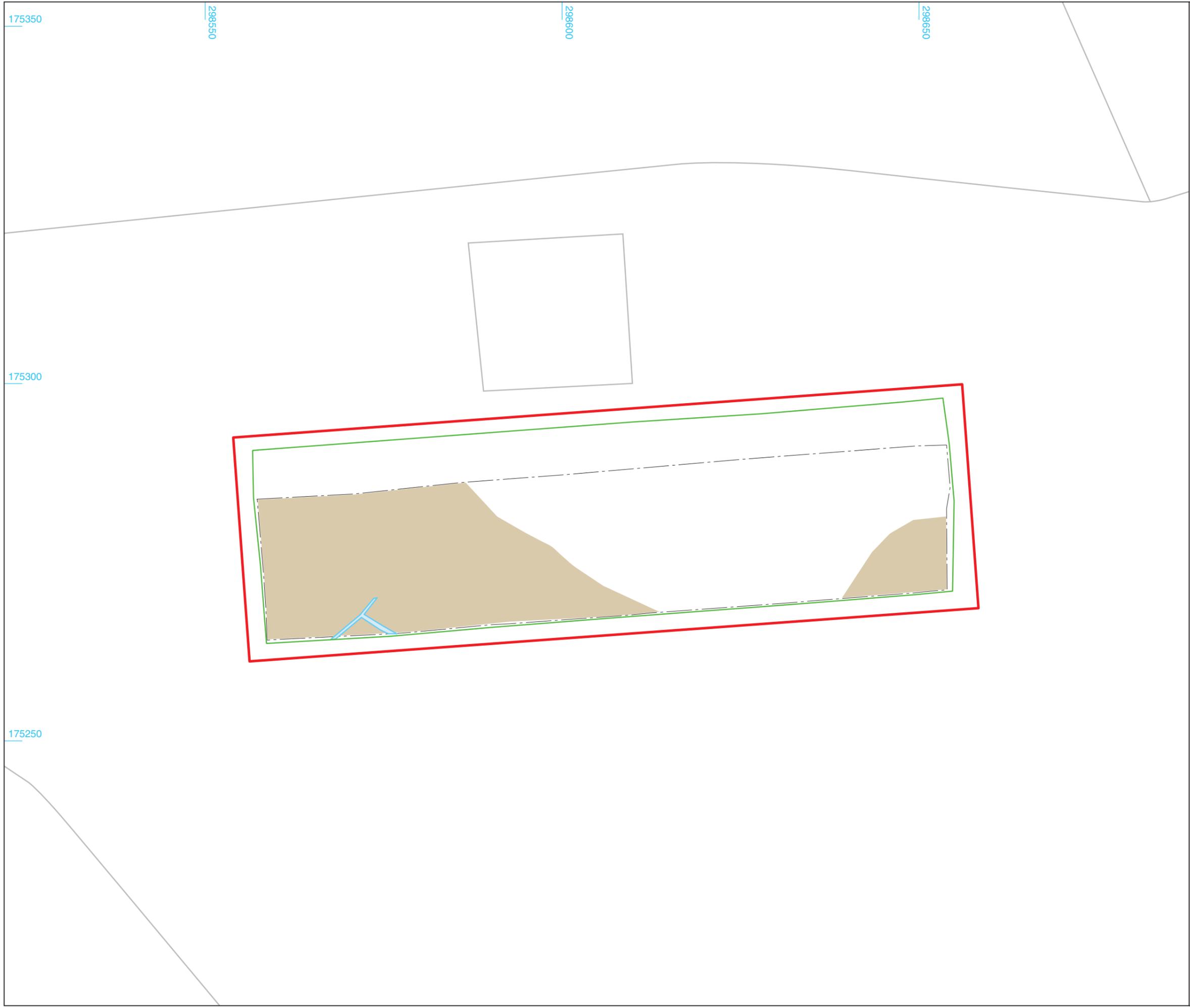
**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land at Llwynhelig, Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan, Wales

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan



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 Ordnance Survey 0100031673

<b>DRAWN BY</b> RW	<b>PROJECT NO.</b> 6740	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
<b>CHECKED BY</b> DB	<b>DATE</b> 12/04/2019	<b>1</b>
<b>APPROVED BY</b> AT	<b>SCALE@A4</b> 1:25,000	



- Site boundary
- Trench 1
- Limit of excavation
- Natural
- Field drain



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land at Llwynhelig, Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan, Wales

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site, showing location of observed groundworks

<small>DRAWN BY</small> RW	<small>PROJECT NO.</small> 6740	<small>FIGURE NO.</small>
<small>CHECKED BY</small> DB	<small>DATE</small> 12/04/2019	<b>2</b>
<small>APPROVED BY</small> AT	<small>SCALE@A3</small> 1:500	



Area of observed groundworks during excavation, looking west



Representative section showing site stratigraphy, looking east (1m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

Land at Llwynhelig, Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan, Wales

FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

DRAWN BY RW PROJECT NO. 6740  
 CHECKED BY DB DATE 12/04/2019  
 APPROVED BY AT SCALE@A4 NA

FIGURE NO.

3

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