

**Land Adjacent to Trem Y Bannau Llangorse
Brecon Powys LD3 7UB 17/15038/FUL**

Archaeological Field Evaluation



**Prepared
for**

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By



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Front cover: Postcard (1890s) showing main road to Bwlch through Llangorse with the old Post Office to the left and the development area to right.

Summary

Black Mountains Archaeology Ltd/Archaeoleg Mynydd Du Cyf have been commissioned by Michelle Clark of Trem Y Bannau Llangorse Brecon Powys LD3 7UB to carry out an archaeological field evaluation ahead of a proposed residential development of a single dwelling and associated access and landscaping to inform on the nature and extent of any archaeological remains on the site (17/15038/FUL).

The local planning authority has placed a two-staged condition (9i & 9ii) on the proposed development. Condition 9i allows for an archaeological field evaluation of the site ahead of development and 9ii the provision for further archaeological work in light of potential discoveries made during the field evaluation.

The present report sets out the results of the archaeological field evaluation in accordance with the advice for the work provided by the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (BBNP).

A total of three trenches were machine excavated followed by hand cleaning and recording. The archaeological field evaluation did not identify any features or deposits of archaeological origin in any of the three trenches. There was no evidence of any of the buildings noted on historic mapping within the development area. The stratigraphy suggesting that the land along the road frontage had been reduced in the recent past and the land towards the centre of the proposed development area fairly uniform garden loam deposits.

The field evaluation was undertaken to the professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and guidance for an archaeological field evaluation. Published 2014.

1 Introduction

1.1 Project Background and Proposals

- 1.1.1 Black Mountains Archaeology Ltd/Archaeoleg Mynydd Du Cyf have been commissioned by Michelle Clark of Trem Y Bannau Llangorse Brecon Powys LD3 7UB to carry out an archaeological field evaluation ahead of a proposed residential development of a single dwelling and associated access and landscaping to inform on the nature and extent of any archaeological remains on the site (17/15038/FUL).
- 1.1.2 The local planning authority has placed a two-staged condition (9i & 9ii) on the proposed development. Condition 9i allows for an archaeological field evaluation of the site ahead of development and 9ii the provision for further archaeological work in light of potential discoveries made during the field evaluation.
- 1.1.3 The present report sets out the results of the archaeological field evaluation in accordance with the advice for the work provided by the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (BBNP).

1.2 Objectives

- 1.2.1 The definition of an archaeological Field Evaluation as set out by the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists* (CIfA) is a programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present the field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their significance in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.
- 1.2.2 The purpose of field evaluation is to gain information about the archaeological resource within a given area or site (including its presence or absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality), in order to make an assessment of its merit in the appropriate context, leading to one or more of the following:
- The formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource.
 - The formulation of a strategy to mitigate a threat to the archaeological resource.
 - The formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research.

1.2.3 (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and guidance for an archaeological field evaluation Published 2014)

1.3 Legislative Framework

- 1.3.1 Planning legislation is set out in the *Town and Country Planning Act 1990*. *Planning Policy Wales (PPW 9th Edition)* sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government. Chapter 6 sets out the Welsh Government's policy towards the historic environment. It states "*The historic environment of Wales is made up of individual historic features, archaeological sites, historic buildings and historic parks, gardens, townscapes and landscapes, collectively known as historic assets. The most important of these historic assets have statutory protection through scheduling, listing or designation as a conservation area. Other assets are included in formal registers, which identify them as being of special historic interest. Many others make a positive contribution to local character and sense of place. Some, such as buried archaeological remains, have still to be identified. It is important to protect what is significant about these assets and sustain their distinctiveness. Historic assets should be the subject of recording and investigation when they are affected by proposals that alter or destroy them. Historic assets are a non-renewable resource.*" (PPW 2016, 90).
- 1.3.2 Underpinning PPW are a series of legislative powers and TANs. The *Planning (Wales) Act 2015* sets out a series of legislative changes to deliver reform of the planning system in Wales, to ensure that it is fair, resilient and enables development. The 2015 Act also introduces a mandatory requirement to undertake pre-application consultation for certain types of development. The *Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) (Amendment) Order 2016* defines in *Schedule 4(l)* the parameters and definitions for the requirement of pre-application consultation by Welsh Ministers, particularly in response to the effect of statutory designated monuments, buildings, and parks and gardens.
- 1.3.3 Advice on archaeology and buildings in the planning process was contained in Welsh Office Circular 60/96 Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology and Welsh Office Circular 1/98 Planning and the Historic Environment, which updated Welsh Office Circular 61/96 Planning and the Historic Environment: Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas following the Shimizu (U.K.) Ltd. v. Westminster City Council Judgement (February 1997). Detailed advice on Environmental Impact Assessment is contained within Welsh Office Circular 11/99 Environmental Impact Assessment. Following adoption of the TAN 24 Historic Environment on 31st May 2017, Welsh Office Circulars 60/96 Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology; 61/96 Planning and the Historic Environment: Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas; and 1/98 Planning and the Historic Environment have been cancelled.
- 1.3.4 Any works affecting an ancient monument and its setting are protected through implementation of the *Ancient Monument and Archaeological Areas Act 1979*. In Wales the 1979 Act has been strengthened by *The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016*. The 2016 Act makes important improvements for the protection and management of the Welsh historic environment. It also stands at the centre of an integrated package of secondary legislation (Annexes 1-6), new and updated planning policy and advice, and best-practice guidance on a wide range of topics (*TAN 24 Historic Environment*).

- 1.3.5 Taken together, these will support and promote the careful management of change in the historic environment in accordance with current conservation philosophy and practice.
- 1.3.6 The *Ancient Monument and Archaeological Areas Act 1979* and *The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016* sets out a presumption in favour of preservation *in-situ* concerning sites and monuments of national importance (scheduled/listed), and there exists in the current *Planning Policy Wales (Chapter 6)* a presumption in favour of preservation *in-situ* of all types of heritage assets.

1.4 Location, Topography and Geology

- 1.4.1 The proposed development is centred on NGR SO (3)13514, (2)227551, on the south side of the B4560 in the village of Llangorse, around 30m south of St Paulinu's Church. The development area is a rectangular-shaped plot of land adjacent and currently part of Trem Y Bannau.
- 1.4.2 The geology of the proposed development area is superficial deposits of Devensian till deposits (Diamicton) overlying interbedded Argillaceous rocks and sandstones of the St Maughans Formation (British Geological Survey 2018).

1.5 Archaeological background

- 1.5.1 The proposed development is located within the historic core of Llangorse, which dates to at least the 12th century. However, earlier settlement in the wider area is represented by the Iron Age Allt yr Esgair hillfort (SAMBr153) and the Early-medieval crannog (SAMBr158), built 889-893, on Llangorse Lake, the seat of the local Welsh nobility descendant from the Lord Brychan.
- 1.5.2 Silvester (*et al* 2013, p46-49) provides a useful summary of the history of the settlement of Llangorse and notes the name deriving from Llan (ecclesiastical centre or church) and Cors (marsh) and appearing in the in the years between 1136 and 1154 and the church as *Sancti Paulini de Lancors* between 1147 and 1176.
- 1.5.3 The present Grade II* church to St Paulinus (6761) is largely 15th century with a major restoration in 1874. An earlier monastic reference to St Paulinus in the Llandaff Charters may suggest an Early-medieval foundation contemporary with the occupation of the crannog. Therefore, there is a possibility of encountering settlement activity of Early-medieval and medieval date within the proposed development area.
- 1.5.4 The Llangorse Tithe Map (1840) shows the proposed development area as an open field. Later historic mapping (OS 1st 1887; Figure 2) shows the property boundaries much as they are today. A terrace of houses (Plates 1 and 2) is positioned alongside the road fronting the proposed development area, which are removed by the turn of the 20th century (OS 2nd 1904; Figure 3). The thin strip of land the proposed development area occupies appears to have been fossilised at this point with some small buildings shown in the centre of the site but which are not shown on later 20th century historic mapping.
- 1.5.5 Previous Investigations**
- 1.5.6 Event 86884, 2001, SO13482753, Makepeace, G A, Archaeological Watching Brief at Land to the Rear of Hendy Gwyn, Llangorse, Powys. No archaeological features or deposits were uncovered.

- 1.5.7 Event 140121, 2016, SO 13633 27566, CPAT archaeological watching brief. during earth-moving work adjacent to Safaddan in Llangorse ahead of construction of an extension. An area of large flagstones with a kerb around them was revealed and recorded. It was interpreted as a hardstanding or base for a structure, probably of late Post-medieval or modern date.

2 Methodology

- 2.1.1 The archaeological field evaluation consisted of the excavation of three trenches, totalling 32.8 square metres (>5% minimum of total development area as requested by BBNP Archaeologist), in accordance with the advice provided by BBNP (and agreed trench location plan). The trenches measured 7m x 2m and were positioned to target several buildings noted on historic mapping and also to identify any Early-medieval or medieval settlement activity extending outwards from St Paulinus Church (see Figure 1). A further trench (Soakaway), measuring 3.2m x 1.5m, was excavated to the rear of the proposed building. The client's building contractor advised the need to excavate a soakaway and we agreed to undertake this while the excavator, building contractor and ourselves were on-site conducting the evaluation so that it could be recorded under archaeological evaluation conditions. The plant provided was in the form of a 1.8t mini excavator with a 1.5m wide grading bucket. The trenches were laid out using a Geomax Zenith 35 Pro GNSS/Glonass (GPS) Receiver and data logger. The survey was conducted to Ordnance Survey National Grid and Datum with a 20mm tolerance.
- 2.1.2 All trench sections were cleaned by hand and sections recorded in detail. No features or deposits of archaeological origin were identified in any of the three trenches. The archaeological recording techniques conformed to the best industry standard; all deposits were recorded using a single continuous context numbering system pro forma. All contexts were recorded with the trench number prefix (e.g. context 03 in Trench 1 = 103) and are summarised in Appendix II. All trenches were photographed in digital using a Fujifilm FinePix S4800 super wide (30x) 24-720mm camera at 16mp. In all trenches, natural deposits were encountered and recorded. When no archaeological horizons were encountered during the machine excavation of the trenches then the excavations were taken down to the natural clay silt deposits. Each section of the trench was inspected and both linear sections were hand cleaned and recorded, and the trench measured, before being back-filled. All trenches were backfilled with the excavated material.
- 2.1.3 All classes of finds were retained (cleaned and catalogued) and arrangements for final deposition have been agreed, as set out in the requirements of the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (2014). No deposits with palaeoenvironmental potential were encountered.
- 2.1.4 The field evaluation was carried out to the standards of the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (2014).
- 2.1.5 With the permission of the landowner, the site archive will be deposited with Brecknock Museum and art Gallery for permanent curation. An accession number will be generated on submission. A digital copy of the report and archive summary will be supplied to the regional HER, the LPA (BBNP) and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales.

3 Results

3.1 Stratigraphical evidence

- 3.1.1 The archaeological field evaluation consisted of the excavation of three trenches, totalling 32.8 square metres, in accordance with the advice provided by BBNP and the agreed watching brief specification.
- 3.1.2 The results of each evaluation trench are detailed below and contextual information can be found in Appendix III.
- 3.1.3 **Trench 1** (Figures 1-4; Plates 3-4)
- 3.1.4 Level of present ground surface: West 173.047mOD, East 173.067mOD.
- 3.1.5 Trench 1 was positioned over buildings shown on historic mapping (OS 1st 1887; Figure 2) depicting a terrace of houses along the road frontage. The trench measured 7m in length by 2m in width; the average depth excavated to 0.8m. A gas main was noted at the eastern end of the trench with the consequence of the shortening of the excavated area by 1m.
- 3.1.6 The general stratigraphy followed natural clay silts (103), with frequent sandstone inclusions, overlain by a limestone chippings deposit (101) c0.2m thick extending for 4.5m from the western end of the trench. The remaining 1.5m length of trench consisted of a thin layer of dark-brown silt-loam topsoil and grass (102), which is at odds with the much deeper topsoil deposits found in both Trench 2 and the Soakaway trench (201 and 301). The lack of topsoil here is likely to indicate some past ground remediation of higher deposits.
- 3.1.7 No archaeological deposits or features was present in the trench. Deposits 101 and 102 contained modern glass, plastic and stone chippings.
- 3.1.8 **Trench 2** (Figures 1-4; Plates 5-6)
- 3.1.9 Level of present ground surface: North 173.609mOD, South 174.009mOD.
- 3.1.10 Trench 2 was positioned over several small buildings shown on historic mapping (OS 1st Ed 1887; Figure 2 and OS Ed 2nd 1904; Figure 3) in the centre of the development area and within the footprint of the proposed new building. The trench measured 7m in length by 2m in width and had an average excavated depth of 0.9m.
- 3.1.11 The general stratigraphy identified was natural clay silts (202), with frequent sandstone inclusions, overlain by a fairly thick friable dark-brown clay silt loam garden topsoil deposit (201). The depth and uniformity of the deposit suggests that this has been under cultivation (garden) for many years.
- 3.1.12 No archaeological deposits or features was present in the trench. Topsoil 201 contained two sherds of 19th century ceramics (white earthenware transfer printed ware) and three fragments of bone.
- 3.1.13 **Soakaway Trench** (Figure 1-4; Plates 7-8)
- 3.1.14 Level of present ground surface: North 174.808mOD, South 173.798mOD.
- 3.1.15 The Soakaway Trench was excavated through the present garden of Trem y Bannau. The trench measured 3.2m in length by 1.5m in width and was excavated to 1.15m in depth.

- 3.1.16 The general stratigraphy mirrored Trench 2. The basal deposit identified as natural clay silts (302), with frequent sandstone inclusions, overlain by a fairly thick friable dark-brown clay silt loam garden topsoil deposit (301).
- 3.1.17 No archaeological deposits or features was present in the trench. Topsoil 301 contained fecks of degraded bone and moderate clinker/coke. The depth and uniformity of the deposit (301) suggests that this has been under cultivation (garden) for many years.

3.2 Finds

- 3.2.1 The finds recovered during the course of the evaluation were confined to the topsoil in Trenches 2 and 3. The material was processed and catalogued according to fabric type. The assemblage is limited and broadly dateable to the post-medieval period, specifically the 19th and 20th centuries.
- 3.2.2 Transfer-printed earthenwares were the only ceramic fabrics recovered, all dating to the 19th and 20th centuries (201). Trench 2 produced several fragments of animal bone of indeterminate (species) origin. Trench 3 produced frequent coke/clinker together with flecks of animal bone (301). The finds recovered from the topsoil are unremarkable and would appear to be consistent with the normal depositional processes of a village garden and casual loss over time.

Table 1. Finds catalogue

Context	Material Type	Fabric type	Quantity	Period	Description
201	Pottery	WETP	2	19 th century	Two sherds of decorated plate or bowl.
201	Bone	U/D	3	19 th /20 th century	Three small fragments of animal bone.

Key
Quantity in total number of sherds/fragments
U/D: Undiagnostic
WETP: White Earthenware Transfer Printed

4 Conclusion

- 4.1.1 The archaeological field evaluation did not identify any features or deposits of archaeological origin in any of the three trenches. There was no sign at all in Trench 1 of the buildings shown on historic mapping (OS 1st 1887; Figure 2) depicting a terrace of houses along the road frontage. Plate 1 shows an old postcard (1890s) of the main road through Llangorse, with the old Post Office to the left and the area of the terrace housing to the right. It is difficult to see clearly but some roof timbers are just discernible behind the wall and hedge line on the road frontage possibly showing the terrace set back from the road and in a very dilapidated state prior to demolition. The buildings are not shown on later historic mapping (OS Ed 2nd 1904). Plate 2 shows the opposite view perhaps around the same time. The walls on the road frontage are just discernible as is the gateway to the west of the terrace. The lack of any topsoil or stratified structures or deposits relating to the buildings and structures shown in Plate 1 and 2 would suggest that this area has been subjected to significant ground remediation in the past. The presence of limestone chippings and modern glass and plastic fragments may indicate this lowering of the ground level happened more recently than the OS mapping suggests (1904).
- 4.1.2 The topsoil deposits in both Trench 2 (201) and the Soakaway Trench (301) were fairly uniform and quite thick suggesting that this area of the garden was fairly undisturbed and had been cultivated for many years. Indeed, historic mapping shows this area as an orchard since at least the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map (1887). There was no evidence of the small buildings noted on the 1st and 2nd Editions Ordnance Survey Maps (1887 and 1904) in Trench 2. The presence of ceramics and animal bone must be considered residual; derived from casual loss in normal garden depositional processes.
- 4.1.3 The archaeological field evaluation has been successful in demonstrating the low archaeological potential of the proposed development area.

5 Bibliography

British Geological Survey, 2017, *Geology of Britain Viewer*, accessed 16/04/2018

(<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>)

Silvester, R. J., Martin, C. H. R. and Watson, S. E., 2013. *Historic settlements in the Brecon Beacons National Park*. CPAT Report No. **1200**.

6 Appendices

6.1 Appendix I Figures

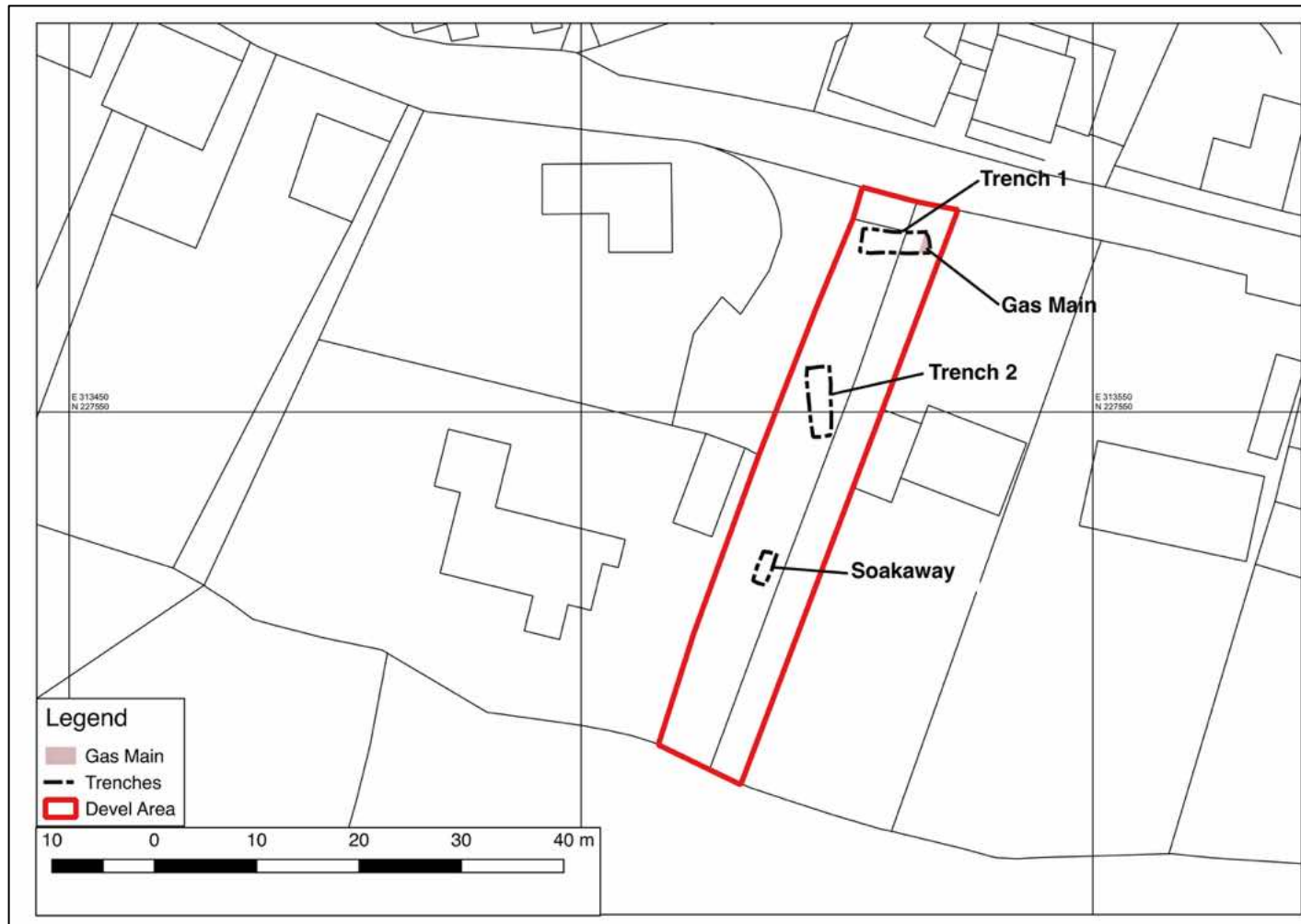
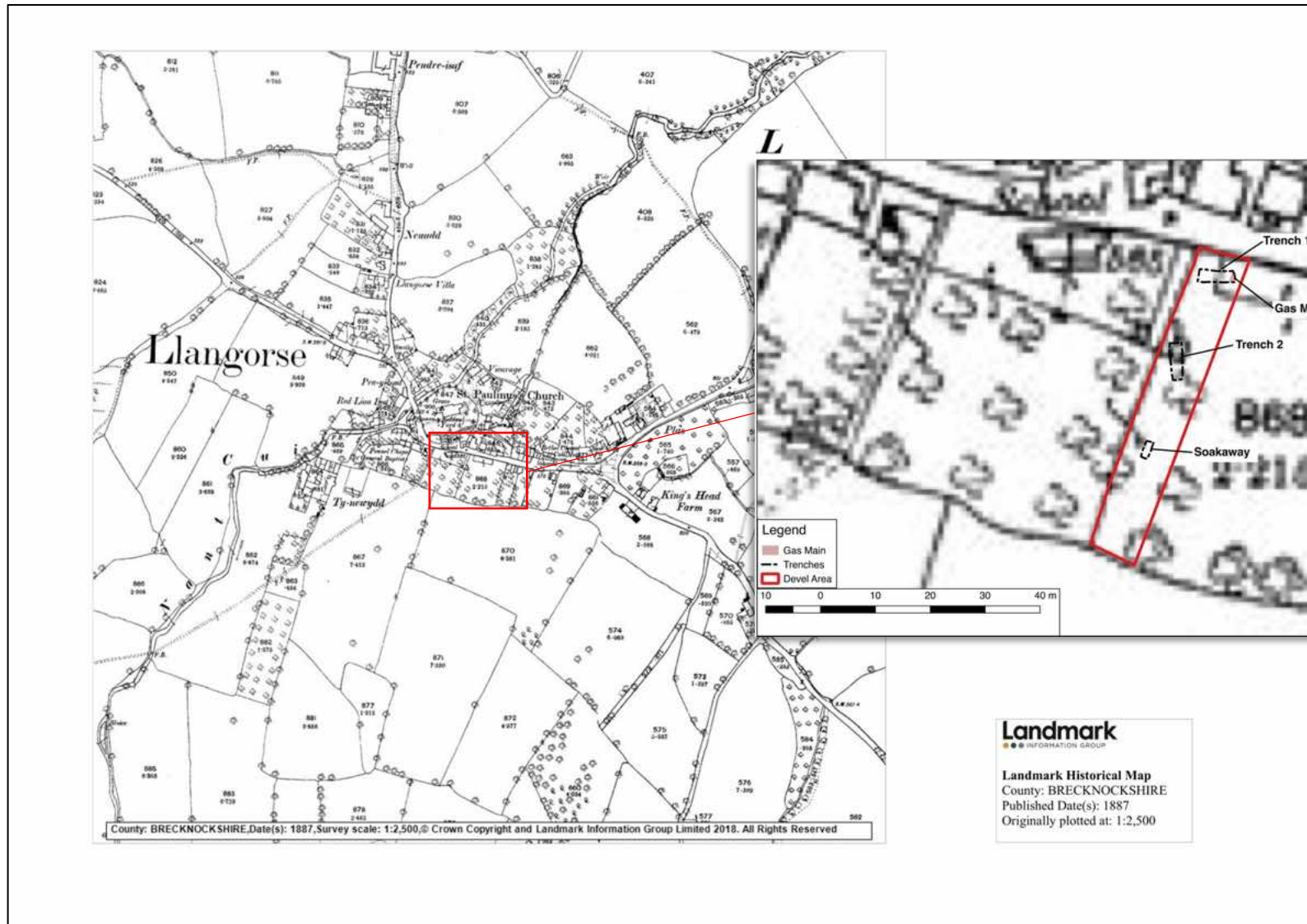


Figure 1. Location of archaeological trenches T1, T2 and Soakaway.



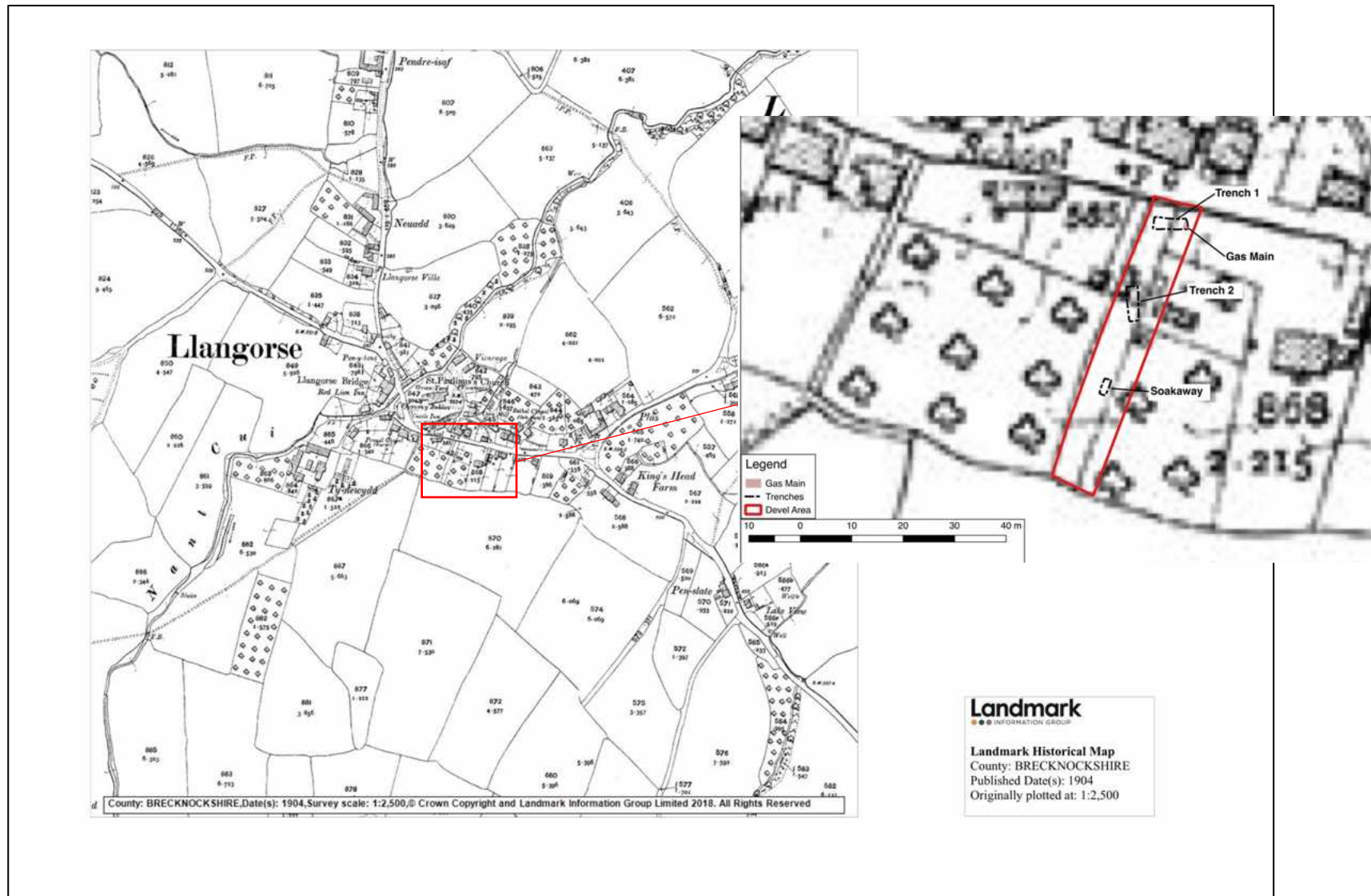


Figure 3. Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1904. Insert shows overlaid trench location plan. Ordnance Survey maps are reproduced under licence 100058761

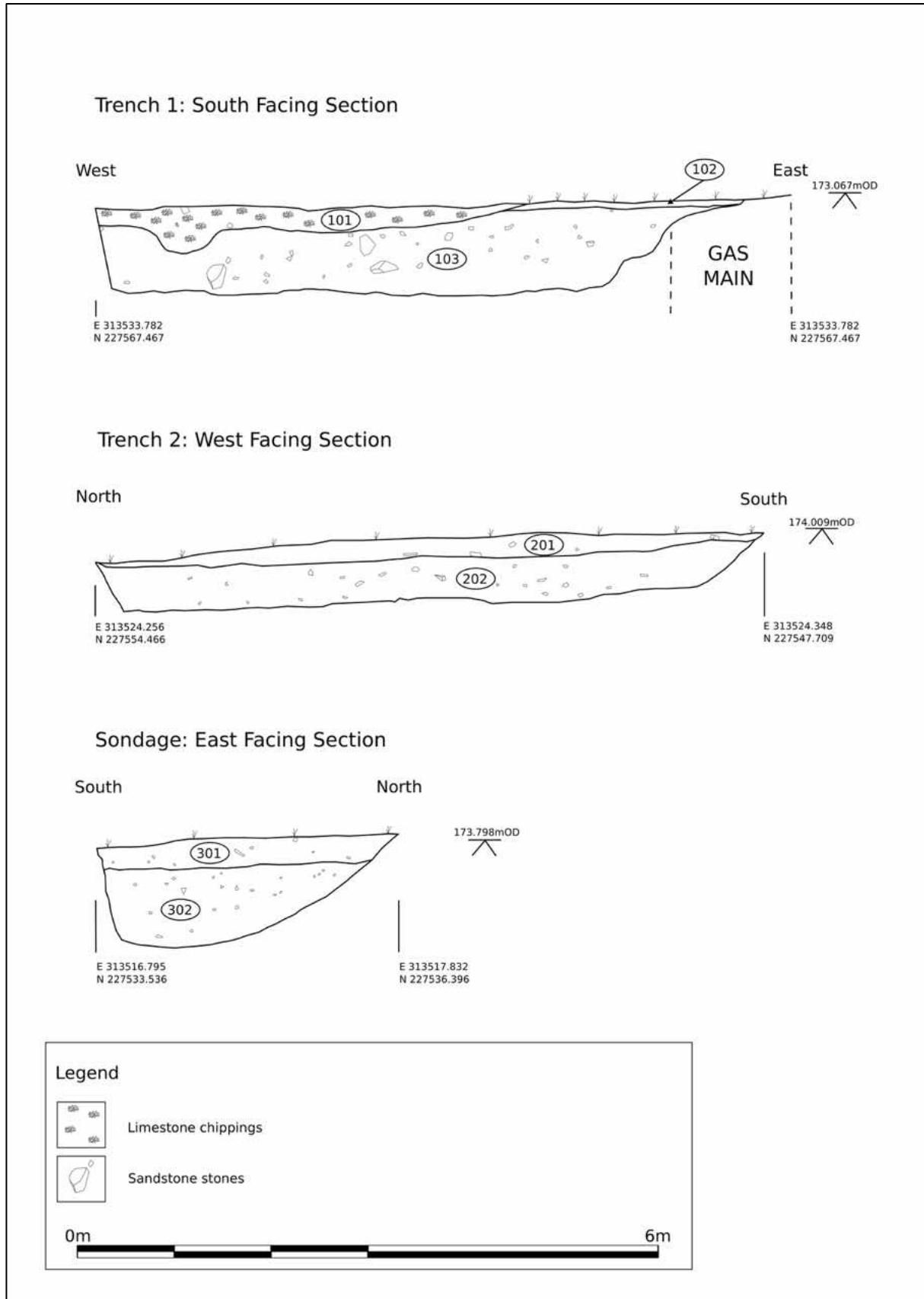


Figure 4. Section drawings of Trenches 1 and 2, and the Sondage.

6.2 Appendix I Plates



Plate 1. Postcard (1890s) showing main road to Bwlch through Llangorse with the old Post Office to the left and the development area to right.



Plate 2. Postcard (undated c1900) showing main road to Brecon through Llangorse with the old Post Office to the right and the development area just visible to left.



Plate 3. Trench 1, view N. Scale 1m in 0.5m sections.



Plate 4. Trench 1, view W. Scale 1m in 0.5m sections. Note area of unexcavated gas main bottom of photograph.



Plate 5. Trench 2, view to NE. Scale 1m in 0.5m sections



Plate 6. Trench 2, view to NW. Scale 1m in 0.5m sections.



Plate 7. Trench 3, view to W. Scale 1m in 0.5m sections.



Plate 8. Trench 3, view to W. Scale 1m in 0.5m sections.

6.3 Appendix II Context Inventory

6.3.1 Trench 1

6.3.2 NGR: Centre West 313527.417,227566.831; Centre East 313534.023,227566.616. Level of present ground surface: West 173.047mOD, East 173.067mOD. Trench length 7m, width 2m. Average depth 0.8m. Trench 1 was positioned over buildings shown on historic mapping (OS 1st 1887; Figure 2) depicting a terrace of houses along the road frontage. A gas main was noted at the eastern end of the trench, shortening the excavated area by 1m. No archaeological deposits or features was present in the trench. Topsoil 101 and 102 contained modern glass, plastic and stone chippings.

Context	Type	Depth	Description	Period
101	Deposit	0m – 0.2m	Friable dark-brown gritty topsoil, predominantly limestone chippings with a very thin vegetation layer (0.02m) on surface. Deposit covers 4.5m of trench west to east. Modern glass and plastic present.	Modern
102	Deposit	0m – 0.03m	Dark-brown silt-loam topsoil. Deposit covers 1.5m of trench east to west. Modern glass and plastic present.	Modern
103	Deposit	0.2m – 0.8m n.b	Mid-brown clay-silt with frequent sandstone inclusions (average <0.05m but largest <0.1m). Natural geology.	Natural

All depths below present ground surface. n.b = not bottomed

6.3.3 Trench 2

6.3.4 NGR: Centre North 313523.105,227554.400; Centre South 313523.561,227547.627. Level of present ground surface: North 173.609mOD, South 174.009mOD. Trench length 7m, width 2m. Average depth 0.9m. Trench 2 was positioned over several small buildings shown on historic mapping (OS 1st Ed 1887; Figure 2 and OS Ed 2nd 1904; Figure 3). No archaeological deposits or features was present in the trench. Topsoil 201 contained two sherds of 19th century ceramics and three fragments of bone.

Context	Type	Depth	Description	Period
201	Deposit	0m – 0.4m	Friable dark-brown clay silt loam. Thick garden deposit with several sherds of white earthenware transfer printed ceramics and three fragment of (animal) bone.	19 th century and Modern
202	Deposit	0.4m – 0.9m	Mid-brown clay-silt with frequent sandstone inclusions (average <0.05m). Natural geology.	Natural

All depths below present ground surface. n.b = not bottomed

6.3.5 Soakaway Trench

6.3.6 NGR: Centre North 313518.476,227536.294; Centre South 313517.290,227533.306. Level of present ground surface: North 174.808mOD, South 173.798mOD. Trench length 3.2m, width 1.5m. Average depth 1.15m. Trench 3 was a soakaway trench excavated through the present garden of Trem y Bannau. No archaeological deposits or features was present in the trench. Topsoil 301 contained fecks of degraded bone and moderate clinker/coke.

Context	Type	Depth	Description	Period
301	Deposit	0m – 0.28m	Friable dark-brown clay silt loam with very thin (0.03m) surface layer of grass. Moderate bone flecking and clinker/coke inclusions.	Modern

Context	Type	Depth	Description	Period
302	Deposit	0.28m – 1.15m	Mid-brown clay-silt with frequent sandstone inclusions (average <0.05m). Natural geology.	Natural

All depths below present ground surface. n.b = not bottomed

Acknowledgements and Copyright

- 6.3.7 The fieldwork, report and illustrations was undertaken by Richard Lewis BA MCIfA. The author would like to thank Mrs Michelle Clark (client) and Mr Brian James (building contractor) for their help and support during the project. Thanks also to Alice Thorne (BBNP) for helpful archaeological advice and support.
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