

Elan Links: Archaeological Evaluation Llest Abercaethon Enclosure, Elan Valley, Powys



Report by: Trysor

For: Elan Links, Elan Valley Trust

June 2023



Elan Links: Archaeological Evaluation Llest Abercaethon Enclosure, Elan Valley, Powys

By

Jenny Hall, MCIfA & Paul Sambrook, MCIfA
Trysor

Trysor Project No. 2021/655
CPAT HER EVENT PRN: 167102

For: Elan Links, Elan Valley Trust

June 2023

38, New Road
Gwaun-cae-Gurwen
Ammanford
Carmarthenshire
SA18 1UN
www.trysor.net
enquiries@trysor.net



trysor



Cover photograph: The location of the trench and the earthwork of the enclosure, looking east

**Elan Links: Archaeological Evaluation
Lluest Abercaethon Enclosure,
Elan Valley, Powys**

RHIF YR ADRODDIAD - REPORT NUMBER: Trysor 2021/655
CPAT HER EVENT PRN - 167102

DYDDIAD 19^{eg} Mehefin 2023 DATE 19th June 2023

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*

*82. Henfaes Road
Tonna
Neath
SA141 3EX
01639 412708*

www.trysor.net

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

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 assessments, evaluations 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 assessments, evaluations and watching briefs.

Event Record PRN – CPAT HER

PRN	167102
Name	Elan Links: Archaeological Evaluation, Lluest Abercaethon Enclosure, Elan Valley, Powys
Type	EVALUATION
NGR	SN8759068845
Easting	287590
Northing	268845
Summary (English)	In September 2021, Trysor placed an evaluation trench across a circular earthwork feature at Lluest Abercaethon, in the Elan Valley, Powys. The evaluation was part of the Elan Links project, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The evaluation trench showed that there had been a ditch internal to the earthwork bank. There was no clear dating for the origins of the ditch but 19th century artefacts suggested that stones and soil were used to infill the ditch and level the land during the 19th century. No features were recorded within the bounds of the circular earthwork and geophysical anomalies in the interior appear to be the result of ironstaining or panning of the subsoil. © Trysor 2023
Crynodeb (Cymraeg)	Ym mis Medi 2021, agorodd Trysor ffos werthuso ar draws cloddiau lloc crwn yn Lluest Abercaethon, Cwm Elan, Powys. Roedd y gwerthusiad yn rhan o brosiect Cysylltiadau Elan a ariannwyd gan Gronfa Treftadaeth y Loteri Genedlaethol. Dangoswyd bod ffos y tu mewn i'r gwrthglawdd sy'n diffinio'r lloc. Nid oedd unrhyw dystiolaeth i ddyddio'r safle ond roedd arteffactau o'r 19eg ganrif yn bresennol yn y ffos ac yn awgrymu bod cerrig a phridd wedi cael eu defnyddio i lanw'r ffos a lefelu'r tir yn ystod y 19eg ganrif. Ni chofnodwyd unrhyw nodweddion o fewn gwrthglawdd y lloc ac mae'n ymddangos bod anomaleddau geoffisegol y tu mewn yn ganlyniad i staenio haearn yn yr isbridd. © Trysor 2023
Description	In September 2021, Trysor placed an evaluation trench across a circular earthwork feature at Lluest Abercaethon, in the Elan Valley, Powys. The evaluation was part of the Elan Links project, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The evaluation trench showed that there had been a ditch internal to the earthwork bank. There was no clear dating for the origins of the ditch but 19th century artefacts suggested that stones and soil were used to infill the ditch and level the land during the 19th

	century. No features were recorded within the bounds of the circular earthwork and geophysical anomalies in the interior appear to be the result of ironstaining or panning of the subsoil. © Trysor 2023
Sources	Trysor, 2023, <i>Elan Links: Archaeological Evaluation, Llest Abercaethon Enclosure, Elan Valley, Powys</i>)
Copyright	@Trysor 2023

CONTENTS

1. Summary	3
2. Copyright	3
3. Introduction	3
4. The excavation site	5
5. Methodology	6
6. Stratigraphy	8
7. Archive	11
8. Discussion	11
9. Acknowledgements	14
10. Public benefit	14
11. Sources	14
Appendix A: Photographs	16
Appendix B: Drawings	38
Appendix C: Artefact Reports	40
Appendix D: Archive Index	45
Appendix C: Written Scheme of Investigation	47

Figures

<i>Figure 1: Location of the Lluest Abercaethon earthwork, HER PRN 43942, and NMR NPRN 261659</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Figure 2: Location of the single trench across the circular anomaly based on the topographical survey undertaken by Ian Brooks of Engineering Archaeological Services and Trydor (Brooks, I, 2021)</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Figure 3: Harris matrix showing stratigraphy and interpretation</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Figure 4: Location of general photographs around the trench</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Figure 5: Detail photographs of ditch [012]</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Figure 6: Plan of excavated trench</i>	<i>39</i>
<i>Figure 7: The northwest facing section of the evaluation trench</i>	<i>39</i>
<i>Figure 8: Photograph of Mesolithic flint</i>	<i>42</i>
<i>Figure 9: Drawing of Mesolithic flint</i>	<i>42</i>
<i>Table 1: Number sequences used</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Table 2: Location of each corner of the trench</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Table 3: Contexts recorded</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Table 4: Photograph catalogue</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Figure 5: Table showing contexts and artefacts</i>	<i>44</i>

1. Summary

1.1 In September 2021, Trysor, on behalf of the Elan Valley Trust, undertook an archaeological evaluation of a circular, banked earthwork enclosure at Llest Abercaethon, SN8759068845, as part the NLHF funded Elan Links scheme.

1.2 The earthwork had been previously subject to geophysical and topographical survey which had indicated an internal ditch inside the bank which defines the earthwork as well as possible activity at the centre of the enclosure (Brooks, I, 2020 & Brooks, I, 2021). The existence of an internal ditch was confirmed but no datable evidence was found for the origins of the ditch. There was no evidence of activity within the enclosure and the geophysical anomalies may have been caused by iron staining/panning. No evidence of settlement or funerary or ritual activity within the circular earthwork bank was found.

1.3 The evaluation did, however, demonstrate that there was a period of land improvement at the site which led to the final infilling of the already largely silted up enclosure ditch during the 19th century. The land was evidently ploughed and manured, indicated by the presence of sherds of 19th century pottery in the ploughsoil. No 20th century material was found.

1.3.1 One single Mesolithic flake was found in the one of the upper layers and not in situ.

2. Copyright

2.1 Trysor 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, 4 and 9 include other copyright material and should not be copied without permission.

3. Introduction

3.1 Elan Valley Trust, through the NLHF funded Elan Links scheme, commissioned Trysor to undertake an archaeological investigation of an earthwork at Llest Abercaethon, SN8759068845, to the west of the Craig Goch Reservoir.

3.2 This is part of Elan Links 4a: Safeguarding Elan's Historic Environment strand of the NLHF project which seeks to ensure that key built heritage and ancient heritage sites are protected to safeguard and maintain their condition into the future.

3.3 Trydor produced a written scheme of investigation, see Appendix D, following CIfA standards and guidance (CIfA, 2020a, b & c) as well as guidance provided by Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT, undated). It was approved by the curatorial archaeologist at Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust, and Elan Valley Trust.

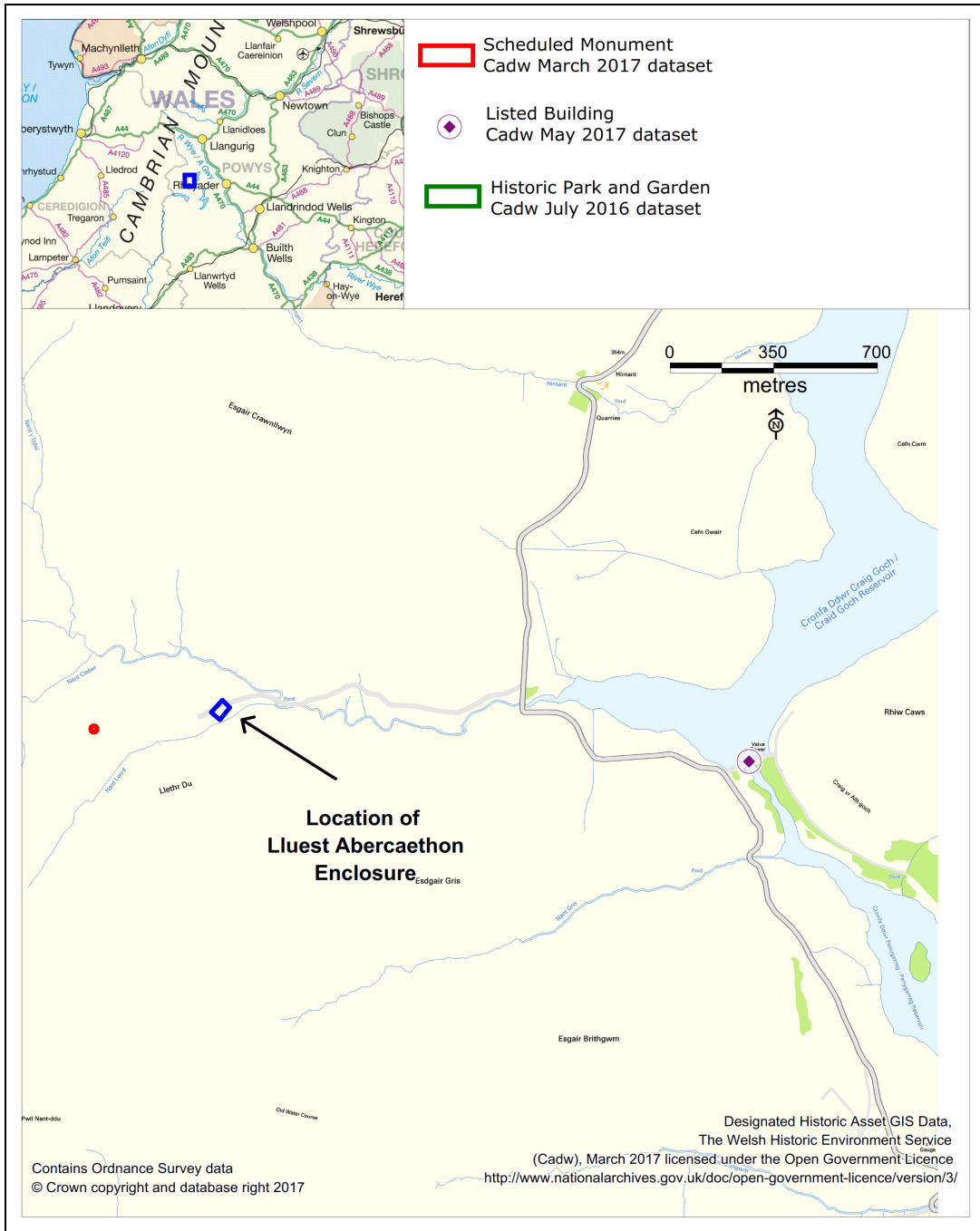


Figure 1: Location of the Llest Abercaethon earthwork, HER PRN 43942, and NMR NPRN 261659.

4. The excavation site

4.1 The Lluest Abercaethon Enclosure is at SN8759068845, a little over 1 kilometre to the west of the Craig Goch reservoir in the Elan Valley, Powys. It is currently situated within a pasture field to the east of the ruined remains of Lluest Abercaethon farmhouse. The site is accessed by the farm track, which runs immediately to the northern side of the enclosure. The field system in which it lies is of post-medieval date, largely post-dating the mid-19th century and bounded by rubble walls or post and wire fences.

4.2 The earthwork enclosure lays at approximately 360 metres above sea level on a relatively well-drained, east-facing slope. The incised valley of the Nant Clettwr stream is found immediately to the south of the enclosure.

4.3 It is recorded in the National Monuments Record under NPRN 261659 and in the regional Historic Environment Record, managed by Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust, under PRN 43942. It is not a scheduled monument.

4.4 It is a large, banked, sub-circular earthwork, approximately 30 metres in diameter. It is partly terraced into the gentle, east-facing slope and there is some evidence of an internal ditch, running parallel to the bank, at the lower, northeastern side of the earthwork. The bank is up to 4 metres wide in its current form and up to 0.50 metres high. To the southeast the bank is not readily visible, and may not have existed here.

4.5 The earthwork was originally recorded as a possible Bronze Age Ring Cairn during an Upland Survey undertaken by Richard S Jones in 2000, but the true date and function of the monument was unknown (Jones, RS, 2001).

4.6 The site is underlain by Glanyrafon Formation (lower Tongue) mudstone and sandstone, formed between 438.5 and 433.4 million years ago during the Silurian period. The bedrock is overlain by Devensian-Diamicton glacial tills formed between 116 and 11.8 thousand years ago during the Quaternary period. These would have been laid down during the last Ice Age. The soils at the site are classed as "Freely draining acid loamy soils over rock" which are typically found on grassland and rough grazing land in steep acid upland pastures.

5. Methodology

5.1 Between the 21st and the 25th September 2021, a single trench was excavated from the centre of the enclosure running northeastwards onto the bank of the enclosure, see Figure 2. The trench was 1 metre wide and 10 metres wide.

5.1.1 The purpose of the trench was to help understand the function and date of the feature and in particular to

- the nature of the feature shown in the centre of the enclosure, across a geophysical anomaly identified during geophysical survey by Ian Brooks in August 2020
- obtain dating material if possible.
- ascertain the nature of the bank

5.2 The site code used was LAC2021. The following number sequences were used to record individual contexts and photographs, see Table 1.

Number Sequence	Used For	Numbers Used
001 to 099	Context numbers	001 to 013
101 to 199	Photograph numbers	101 to 124
201 to 299	Drawing Numbers	201 to 203
301 to 399	Sample Numbers	301 to 304

Table 1: Number sequences used

5.3 The excavation was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Field Evaluation* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020b).

5.4 The trench, 10 metres northeast to southwest by 1 metre wide, was excavated by hand. The turf was removed and placed to one side for reinstatement. The trench excavated down in spits until archaeology or subsoil was reached. The surface was then trowelled clean, photographed and planned. Any possible features were identified.

Corner of Trench	Eastings	Northings	Altitude
West	287592.68	268847.16	
North	287599.49	268854.07	
East	287600.23	268853.45	
South	287593.32	268846.47	354.75

Table 2: Location of each corner of the trench

5.5 As the trench was in an open access area, and it was open over several days, the site was fenced to ensure people or animals did not wander into excavated area.

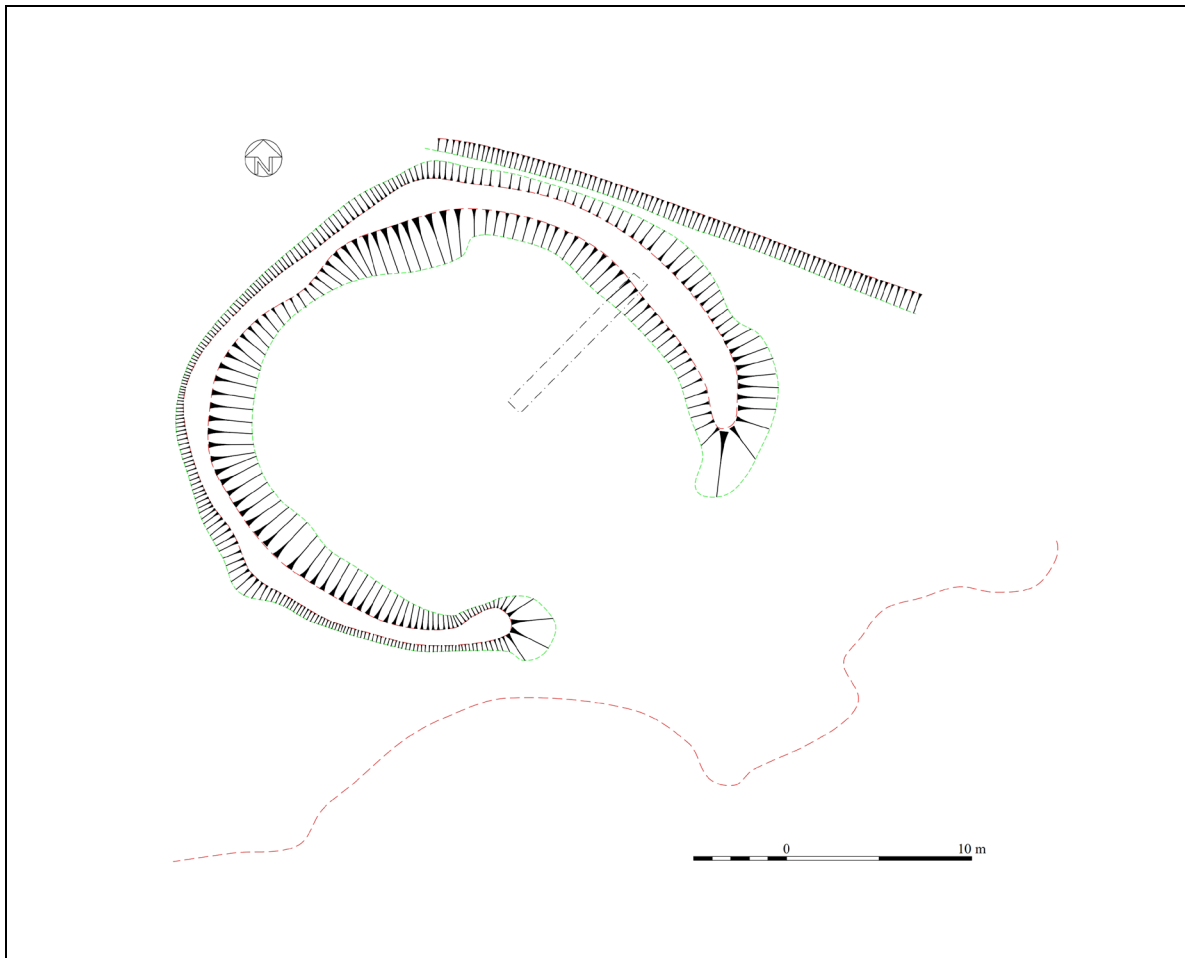


Figure 2: Location of the single trench across the circular anomaly based on the topographical survey undertaken by Ian Brooks of Engineering Archaeological Services and Trysor (Brooks, I, 2021) copyright EAS Ltd

6. Stratigraphy

6.1 The stratigraphy in the trench was recorded. Colour digital photographs were taken using a 16M pixel camera. Details and reduced copies of the photographs are included in Appendix A. The southeast section was drawn at 1:10 and the trench planned at 1:20.

6.2 Context Catalogue

Context Number	Type	Description	Interpretation
001	Layer	5YR 3/2 dark reddish brown, fibrous clay, containing 19 th /20 th century pottery, glass, coal, ash and iron (not retained) up to 0.07 metres deep covering the whole trench	Turfline
002	Layer	10YR 5/3 brown silty clay, very little gravel but includes 19 th century pottery, glass, coal, ash and iron. Iron staining present in random patterns	Topsoil/Ploughsoil Iron staining/panning may be responsible for the geophysics result
003	Layer	10YR 5/4 yellowish brown silt with very few coarser components other than some 19 th century pottery, glass, coal and iron, a piece of burnt animal bone (sheep or goat) and a Mesolithic microlith	Lower ploughsoil
004	Layer	2.5Y 5/3 light olive brown silty clay with very few coarse components including 19 th century pottery sherds and a piece of daub	Lowest ploughsoil fills ploughmarks
005		Stone, gravel and occasional bigger stones with some iron staining, no artefacts	Highest fill of the ditch [012]
006	Fill	2.5Y 5/3 light olive brown soft with very few coarse components, no artefacts	Fill of ditch [012]
007	Fill	7.5YR 3/2 dark brown loose clay with no coarse components, no artefacts	Fill of ditch [012], possibly a former turfline
008	Fill	2.5Y 5/3 light olive brown clay with no coarse components, no artefacts	Fill of ditch [012]

009	Fill	2.5Y 5/2 greyish brown clay with fine gravel and flat stones laid flat across the ditch [012], no artefacts	Fill of ditch [012]
010	Layer	10YR 5/6 yellowish brown clay	Natural Subsoil
011	Fill	Large stones that line the outer side (to the northeast) of the ditch, no artefacts	Unknown purpose, possibly field clearance. Overlays ditch fill (007),
012	Cut	Ditch cut, single cut	Single phase cut but with stones (011) inserted after a period of infilling up to (007)
013	Fill	Some stones and gravel, no artefacts	Lowest fill of ditch,
014	Feature	Not excavated	Earthwork bank

Table 3: Contexts recorded

6.3 The excavation of the trench revealed a shallow ditch (012) cut into the yellowish-brown clay subsoil (010) to the internal, southwest side of the bank material (014). The ditch was circa 0.45 metres deep to its base and just under 3 metres wide across its top. It was stepped up on its southwest side with a steeper side on the northeast. The bottom of the ditch was narrow with a basal fill (013), a greyish clay with some stones and gravel. The basal fill (013) was overlain by a greyish brown clay layer (009). Above this, in sequence, were a light olive brown clay (008), a dark brown loose humic layer (007), a soft, light olive brown layer (006) and a gravel layer showing some evidence of iron staining (005). The whole ditch was sealed in by (004), which was a light olive brown silty clay and contained 19th century pottery and some daub.

6.3.1 Layer (003) was a yellowish-brown silt with very few coarser components. It overlay (004) and (014), the material of the earthwork bank to the northeast, as well as on the subsoil (010) along the rest of the trench to the southwest. It contained 19th century pottery and a Mesolithic flint flake. (003) was overlain by (002), brown silty clay, with very little gravel but also including 19th century pottery, glass, coal, brick, ash and iron fragments. The turf layer or topsoil (001) lay over (002) along the whole trench. The average depth of the topsoil, (001), was 0.07 metres.

6.4 Throughout the layers (002), (003), (004) and on the surface of (010) were patches of iron staining and iron panning.

6.4 The bank [014] was not excavated during this limited evaluation.

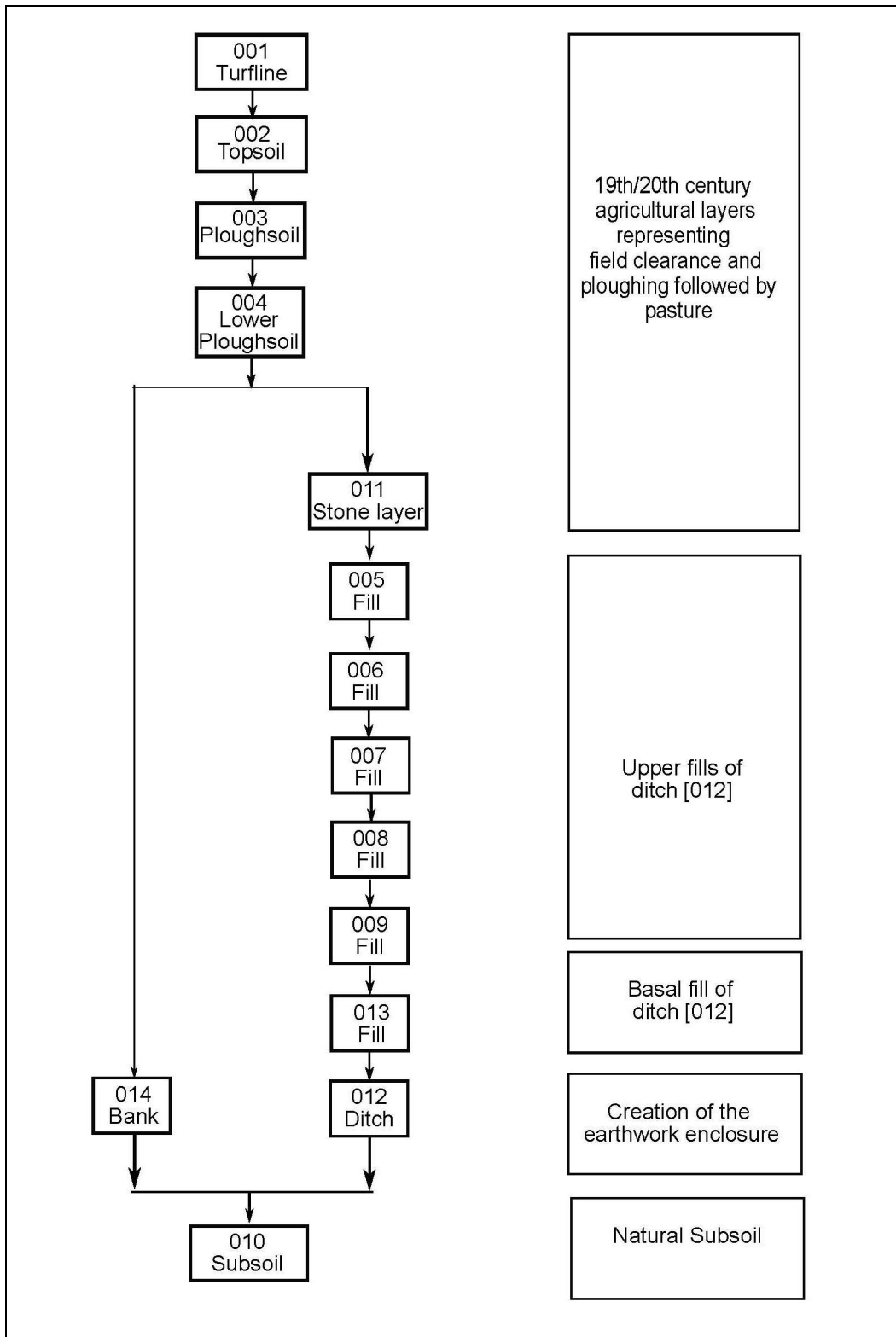


Figure 3: Harris matrix showing stratigraphy and interpretation

7. Archive

7.1 The archive and a copy of the report and photographs will be deposited with the National Monuments Record in Aberystwyth. The photographs are in TIFF format.

7.2 A further copy of the report will be supplied to the Historic Environment Record at Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust.

8. Discussion

8.1 This short evaluation excavation was undertaken to investigate aspects of the undated and unexplained earthwork enclosure at Lluest Abercaethon.

8.2 It was previously apparent that the enclosure was defined by a low earthwork bank. There was some evidence of a probable internal ditch, which was most obvious on the northeastern, downslope side.

8.3 A geophysical survey undertaken by Ian Brooks of Engineering Archaeological Services in 2021 (Brooks, 2021) appeared to confirm the presence of the internal ditch but also highlighted an area of possible activity towards the centre of the enclosure.

8.4 The evaluation trench was positioned on a southwest to northeast axis to extend across part of the possible area of activity from the centre of the enclosure, across the ditch and up to the top of the enclosure bank.

8.5 The excavation of this trench demonstrated that:

8.5.1 The internal geophysical anomalies which suggested activity within the enclosure appear instead to have been caused by iron staining/iron panning.

8.5.2 The turf, topsoil and ploughsoils (001 to 004) were relatively thin and only included 19th century artefacts, other than a single Mesolithic microlith in (003). Layers (011), and (003) and (004) indicating a period of land clearance, and improvement and subsequent management during the 19th century. No modern material was found, indicating that ploughing had not continued during the 20th century.

8.5.3 The presence of the internal ditch was confirmed. It was almost 0.5 metres deep and relatively broad, up to 3 metres wide across the top. The fills appear to show that the ditch had silted up relatively slowly after the base filled in (013). Large stones (011) sat against the bank [014] and above the upper fill of the ditch, a thin, brown, organic layer

(007). Soil layer (004), which included sherds of 19th century pottery, lay over 011 and onto the bank [014]. The stones (011) may have been moved into the ditch as part of 19th century land clearance in advance of the filling of the upper part of the ditch by (004), a deliberate infilling of the remaining ditch profile to level the land surface sealing in a turf line (007).

8.5.4 The date of the ditch fills below (004) is not known. No pottery or other dateable artefacts were found below. Three samples of possible charcoal were obtained from the basal fill of the ditch (013) in the hope of obtaining datable evidence, but these were later found to be of mineral origin rather than organic material.

8.6 In summary the evaluation demonstrates that there was a period of land improvement, including manuring and ploughing during the 19th century. This may equate to an expansion of the farm in the mid- to late-19th century when Clettwr Mawr became Lluest Abercaethon. By this time the enclosure was out of use.

8.6.1 The evaluation did not succeed in demonstrating the origin or function of the enclosure. The existence of an internal ditch was confirmed, but it included no datable evidence. To date, no evidence of settlement or funerary or ritual evidence has been recorded, either by the evaluation or the geophysical survey.

8.6.2 It is suspected that the enclosure is associated with pastoral farming, either of late medieval or early post-medieval date, and represents some form of stock enclosure or fold. Rectilinear and sub-circular enclosures are known elsewhere within the wider Elenydd landscape, some with internal ditches, which would fit into this category.

8.6.3 Lluest Abercaethon itself stands on the site of the earlier Clettwr Mawr upland farm, with a group of early post-medieval *lluest* and medieval *hafod* type settlements found higher up the valley. The enclosure may therefore relate to activity associated with these settlements.

8.6.4 An alternative explanation suggested by Ian Brooks (pers. comm) was that the enclosure may have been created to define an area for tree planting in later post medieval times. Small tree stands or plantations were commonly associated with upland farms. No such feature is shown on the parish tithe map or early Ordnance Survey maps and it has been shown that the enclosure was out of use by the 19th century.

8.7 Further investigation of the interior of the enclosure as well as the bank and ditch could provide evidence to throw light on the origins and purpose of this monument. In particular, it would be useful to establish whether the bank and ditch originally formed a complete circuit by exploring the southern side of the enclosure, where there is now no upstanding bank but possible evidence of the ditch was indicated by the geophysical survey.

9. Acknowledgements

9.1 We wish to express our gratitude to Mr John Price and family, who farm Llest Abercaethon for consenting to our presence on site for four days. Thanks are also due to our colleague Ian Brooks of Engineering Archaeological Services for his input, as well as to David James and Vic Pardoe, who voluntarily assisted with drone footage.

9.2 Jen Richards from Headland Archaeology attended on behalf of the CIfA as part of our three-year re-registration for Registered Organisation status with the CIfA. Jonathan Davies, and a trainee visited the site on behalf of the Elan Valley Trust and Elan Links.

10. Public Benefit

10.1 Several people visited the site including David James, Rhayader, Vic Pardoe, Llandrindod Wells, Ian Brooks, EAS Ltd, Jennifer Richards, Headland Archaeology, Jonathan Davies and a trainee, Elan Valley Trust.

10.2 A handout was available to take away from a waterproof pocket on the fencing, and a larger, laminated version was attached to the gate at the bottom of the track and to the fencing around the trench. No-one took a handout whilst we were on site.

10.3 It was not possible to send social media posts directly from site due to lack of signal but bilingual posts were made either that evening or the next day and shared on Twitter and Facebook. There was limited engagement.

10.4 The archive and a pdf version of the report will be deposited with the National Monuments Record, as well as a pdf version of the report and photographs deposited with the regional Historic Environment Record making the record of the excavation available to people in the future.

10.5 A summary will be prepared for Archaeology in Wales 2023 again making the summary of the site available to interested people.

10. Sources

Brooks, I, 2020, *Llest Abercaethon: Geophysical Surveys*, EAS Client Report 2020/06

Brooks, I, 2021, *Llest Abercaethon: Topographical Survey*

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020a, *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of*

Archaeological Materials available online from the CIfA website,
www.archaeologists.net

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020b, *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Field Evaluation*, available online from the CIfA website, www.archaeologists.net

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020c, *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* available online from the CIfA website, www.archaeologists.net

CPAT, Undated, *General Requirements for Archaeological Field Evaluations in the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust Area*

Jone, RS, 2001, *Uplands Initiative - Elan Valley Survey*,

Trysor, 2017a, *Elan Links Heritage at Risk Part One*

Trysor, 2017b, *Elan Links Heritage at Risk Part Two – Site Gazetteer*

Trysor, 2021, *Written Scheme of Investigation, Lluest Abercaethon, Elan Valley, SN8757268822, September 2021*

APPENDIX A: PHOTOGRAPHS

*Elan Links: Archaeological Evaluation
Lluest Abercaethon Enclosure,
Elan Valley, Powys*

Photo Number	Description	Date Taken	Direction
LAC2022_101	<i>A general view along the marked-out trench from the centre of the enclosure onto the bank, before turf removed</i>	20/09/2021	northeast
LAC2022_102	<i>A general view across the Lluest Abercaethon enclosure at the start of the evaluation excavation.</i>	20/09/2021	East-northeast
LAC2022_103	<i>A general view across the Lluest Abercaethon enclosure at the start of the evaluation excavation.</i>	20/09/2021	Southeast
LAC2022_104	<i>A view into the evaluation trench, after the removal of the turf (001) exposed context (002).</i>	21/09/2021	Northeast
LAC2022_105	<i>A view into the evaluation trench, after the removal of the turf (001). The bank is visible at the end of the trench with darker soil below it indicating the presence of the internal ditch.</i>	21/09/2021	North
LAC2022_106	<i>A view of the evaluation trench, after the removal of the contexts (002), (003) and (004). The bank (014) is visible at the far end of the trench with the excavation beginning to more clearly reveal the internal ditch, fill (005). A large stone, part of (011) had now appeared on the inner face of the bank</i>	22/09/2021	North
LAC2022_107	<i>Ian Brooks of Engineering Archaeological Services seen here using a camera mounted on a pole to take vertical photographs of the trench.</i>	23/09/2021	Northeast
LAC2022_108	<i>A vertical view of the trench taken by Ian Brooks of Engineering Archaeological Services. The dark fill (005) of the internal ditch [012] is seen to the left of centre.</i>		Southeast
LAC2022_109	<i>A vertical view of the trench taken by Ian Brooks of Engineering Archaeological Services. The dark fill (005) of the internal ditch [012] is seen at the far end of the trench</i>	23/09/2021	Northeast
LAC2022_110	<i>A view of the site with David James, Rhayader using his drone to take aerial photographs of the location.</i>	23/09/2021	Northeast

*Elan Links: Archaeological Evaluation
Llest Abercaethon Enclosure,
Elan Valley, Powys*

Photo Number	Description	Date Taken	Direction
LAC2022_111	<i>A view of iron staining appearing at the southwest end of the trench, which is thought to have caused the anomaly interpreted as possible activity from the geophysical survey.</i>	21/09/2021	Northwest
LAC2022_112	<i>A view of the internal ditch [012] early in the excavation, with a large stone (011) sitting on the inner face of the enclosure bank (014).</i>	21/09/2021	South
LAC2022_113	<i>A view of the internal ditch [012] later in the excavation, with a large stone (011) sitting on the inner face of the enclosure bank (014). The dark layer exposed in the base is (007) which was the lowest layer to contain any datable material (19th century pottery sherds).</i>	23/09/2021	North-northwest
LAC2022_114	<i>A view of the ditch during excavation down to (008). More stones (011) now appeared, placed on the inner face of the bank, but overlaying (007) and therefore not put in place until the 19th century.</i>	23/09/2021	Southeast
LAC2022_115	<i>A view of the ditch [012] during excavation, showing the grey basal fill (013). The dark brown (007) is seen running beneath the stones to the left side of the trench.</i>	23/09/2021	East
LAC2022_116	<i>A view of the southeast section of the internal ditch [012], showing the large stones (011) placed on the inner face of the bank (014) and the dark brown line of (007) running beneath them.</i>	24/09/2021	Southeast
LAC2022_117	<i>A view of the partly excavated internal ditch [012], showing the large stones (011) placed on the inner face of the bank (014). The grey subsoil is revealed at the base of the ditch.</i>	24/09/2021	Northeast
LAC2022_118	<i>A view of the trench with the drone hovering above it.</i>	24/09/2021	East-northeast
LAC2022_119	<i>A view of Vic Pardoe photographing the site with his drone.</i>	24/09/2021	East-northeast
LAC2022_120	<i>A view of the enclosure during the excavation, taken by a drone (© Vic Pardoe).</i>	24/09/2021	Southeast
LAC2022_121	<i>A view of the site during backfilling and re-turfing.</i>	24/09/2021	Northeast

Photo Number	Description	Date Taken	Direction
LAC2022_122	<i>A Lidar image of the enclosure viewed from the east. Contains Natural Resources Wales information © Natural Resources Wales and database right</i>	---	---
LAC2022_123	<i>A Lidar image of the enclosure viewed from the south. Contains Natural Resources Wales information © Natural Resources Wales and database right.</i>	---	---
LAC2022_124	<i>The Mesolithic microlith found during the evaluation. Its presence attests to the fact that Mesolithic hunters would have visited the valley over 6,000 years ago.</i>	21/09/2021	---

Table 4: Photograph catalogue

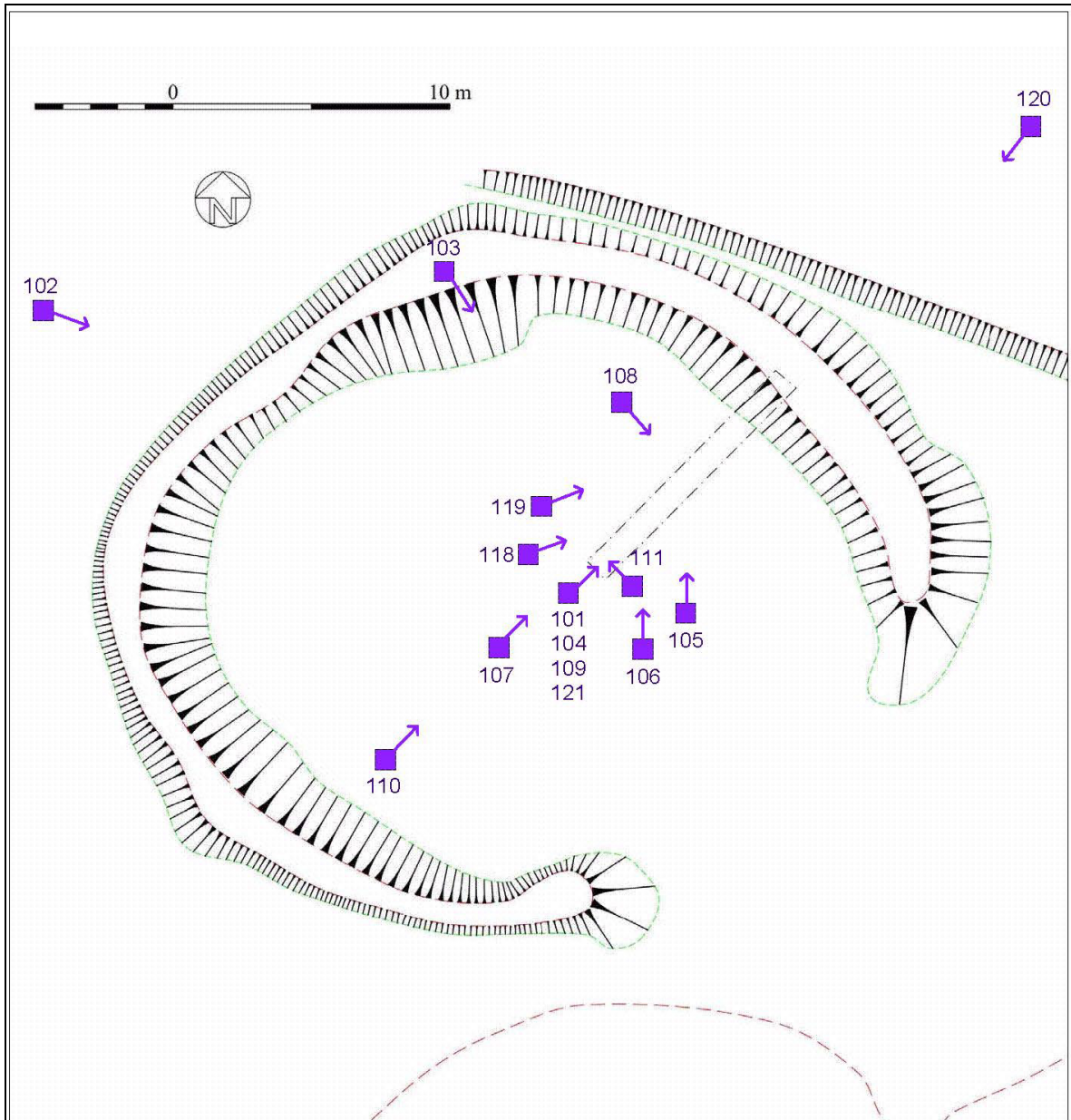


Figure 4: Location of general photographs around the trench, based on topographical survey by Ian Brooks, includes copyright EAS Ltd

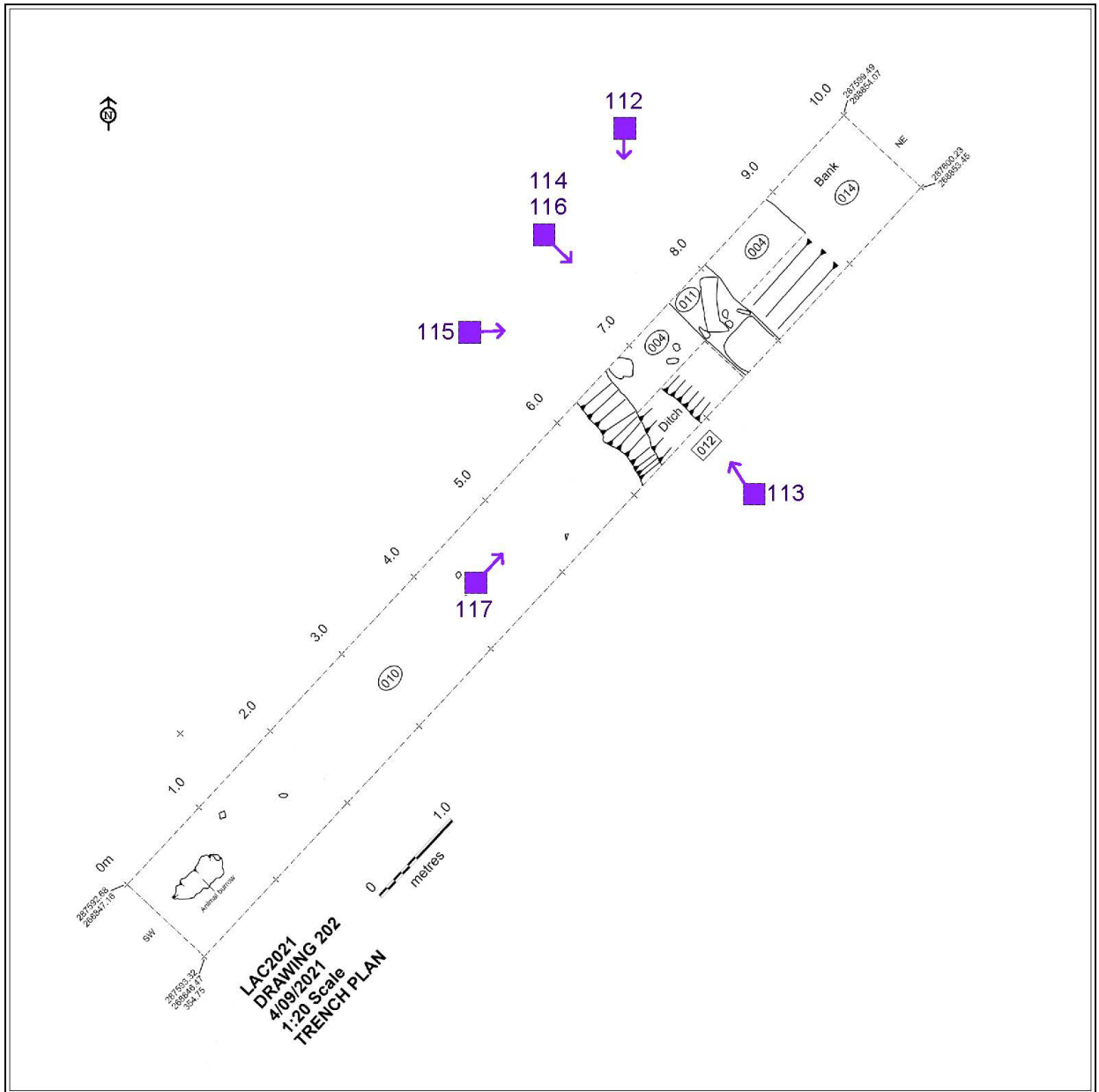


Figure 5: Detail photographs of ditch [012]



Plate 1: LAC2021_101. A general view along the marked-out trench from the centre of the enclosure onto the bank, before turf removed, looking northeast.



Plate 2: LAC2021_102. A general view across the Llest Abercaethon enclosure at the start of the evaluation excavation. Looking east-northeast.



Plate 3: LAC2021_104. A general view across the Llest Abercaethon enclosure at the start of the evaluation excavation. Looking southeast.



Plate 4: LAC2021_104. A view into the evaluation trench, after the removal of the turf (001) exposed context (002). Looking northeast.



Plate 5: LAC2021_105. A view into the evaluation trench, after the removal of the turf (001). The bank is visible at the end of the trench with darker soil below it indicating the presence of the internal ditch. Looking north.



Plate 6: LAC2021_106. A view of the evaluation trench, after the removal of the contexts (002), (003) and (004). The bank (014) is visible at the far end of the trench with the excavation beginning to more clearly reveal the internal ditch, fill (005). A large stone, part of (011) had now appeared on the inner face of the bank. Looking north.



Plate 7: LAC2021_107. Ian Brooks of Engineering Archaeological Services seen here using a camera mounted on a pole to take vertical photographs of the trench. Looking northeast.



Plate 8: LAC2021_108. A vertical view of the trench taken by Ian Brooks of Engineering Archaeological Services. The dark fill (005) of the internal ditch [012] is seen to the left of centre. Looking southeast.



Plate 9: LAC2021_109. A vertical view of the trench taken by Ian Brooks of Engineering Archaeological Services. The dark fill (005) of the internal ditch [012] is seen at the far end of the trench. Looking northeast.



Plate 10: LAC2021_110. A view of the site with David James, Rhayader using his drone to take aerial photographs of the location. Looking northeast.

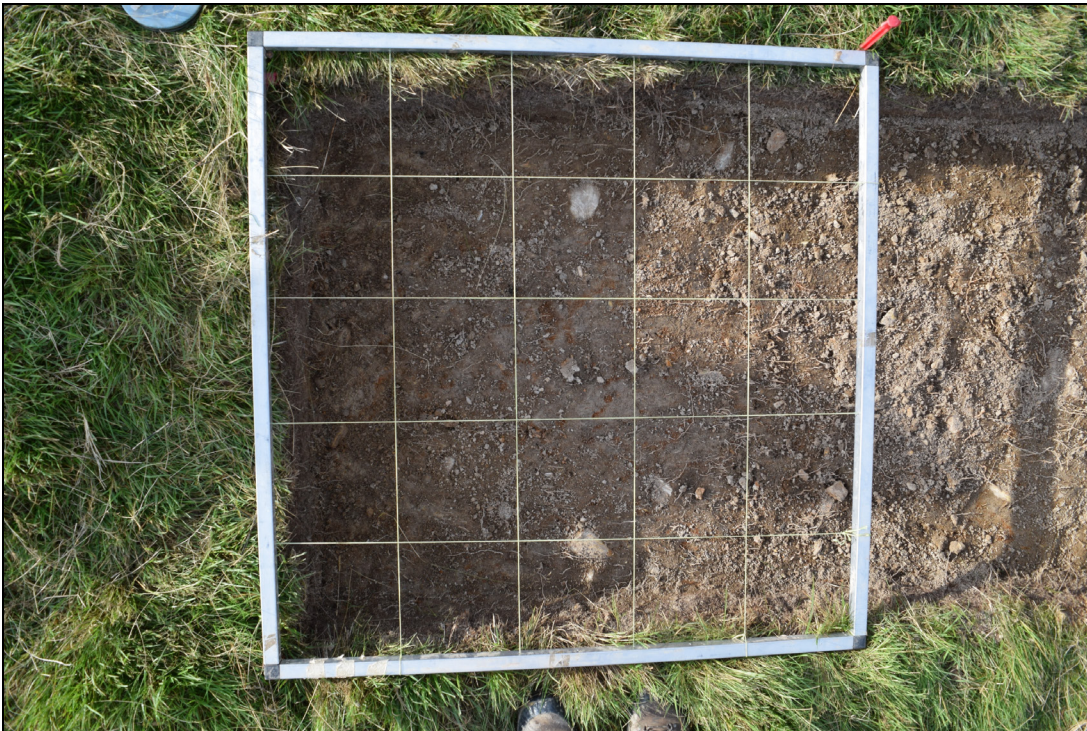


Plate 11: LAC2021_111. A view of iron staining appearing at the southwest end of the trench, which is thought to have caused the anomaly interpreted as possible activity from the geophysical survey. Looking northwest.



Plate 12: LAC2021_112. A view of the internal ditch [012] early in the excavation, with a large stone (011) sitting on the inner face of the enclosure bank (014). Looking south.



Plate 13: LAC2021_113. A view of the internal ditch [012] later in the excavation, with a large stone (011) sitting on the inner face of the enclosure bank (014). The dark layer exposed in the base is (007) which was the lowest layer to contain any datable material (19th century pottery sherds). Looking north-northwest.



Plate 14: LAC2021_114. A view of the ditch [012] during excavation down to (008). More stones (011) now appeared, placed on the inner face of the bank, but overlaying (007) and therefore not put in place until the 19th century. Looking southeast.



Plate 15: LAC2021_115. A view of the ditch [012] during excavation, showing the grey basal fill (013). The dark brown (007) is seen running beneath the stones to the left side of the trench. Looking east.



Plate 16: LAC2021_116. A view of the southeast section of the internal ditch [012], showing the large stones (011) placed on the inner face of the bank (014) and the dark brown line of (007) running beneath them. Looking southeast.



Plate 17: LAC2021_117. A view of the partly excavated internal ditch [012], showing the large stones (011) placed on the inner face of the bank (014). The grey subsoil is revealed at the base of the ditch. Looking northeast.



Plate 18: LAC2021_118. A view of the trench with the drone hovering above it. Looking east-northeast.



Plate 19: LAC2021_119. A view of Vic Pardoe photographing the site with his drone. Looking east-northeast.



Plate 20: LAC2021_120. A view of the enclosure during the excavation, taken by a drone (© Vic Pardoe). Looking southeast.



Plate 21: LAC2021_121. A view of the site during backfilling and re-turfing. Looking northeast.

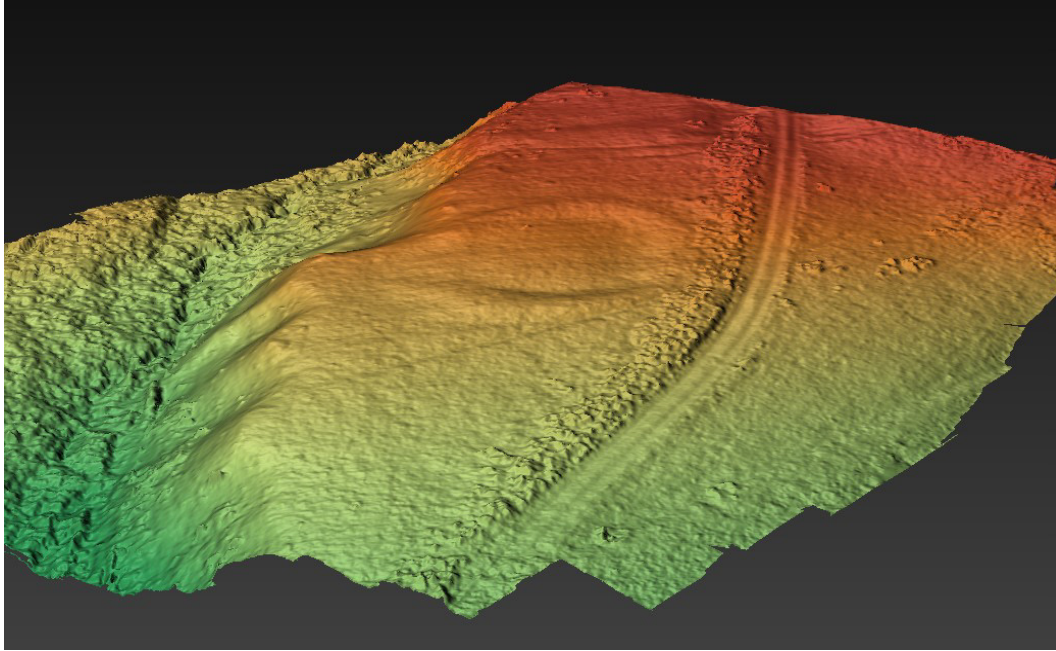


Plate 22: LAC2021_122. A Lidar image of the enclosure viewed from the east. Contains Natural Resources Wales information © Natural Resources Wales and database right

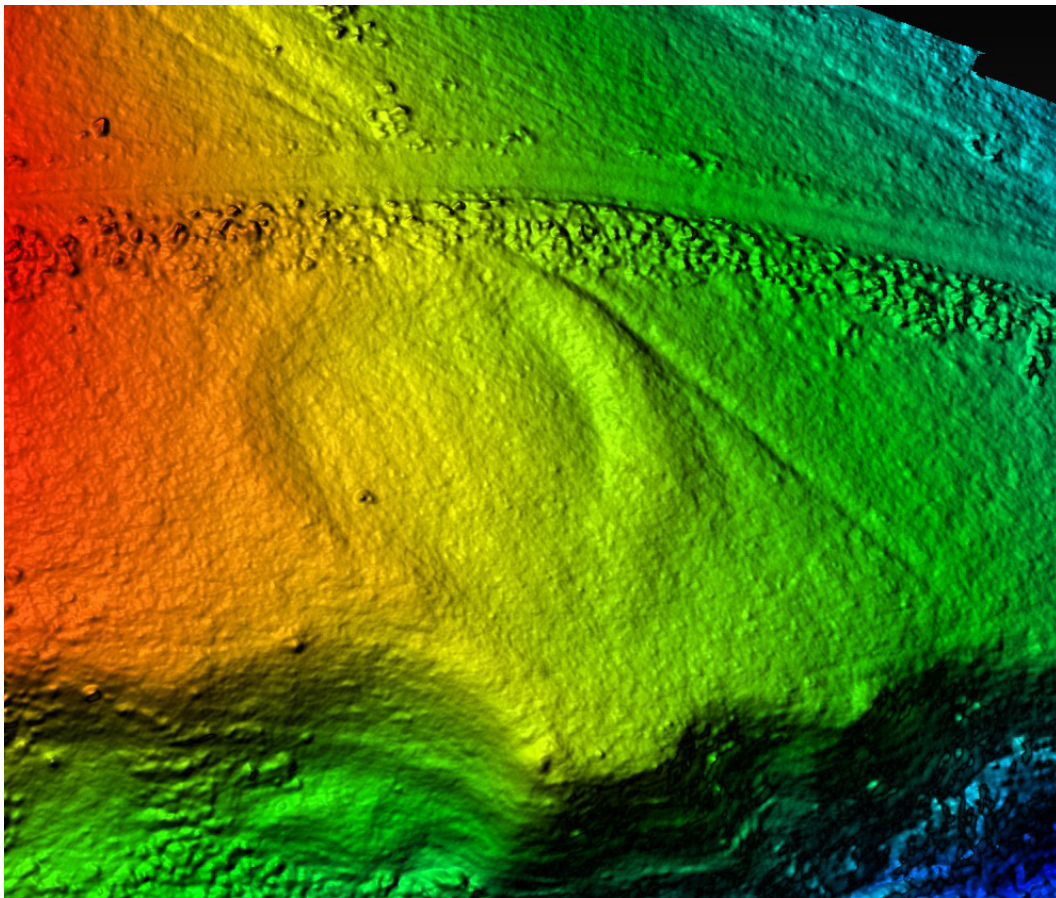


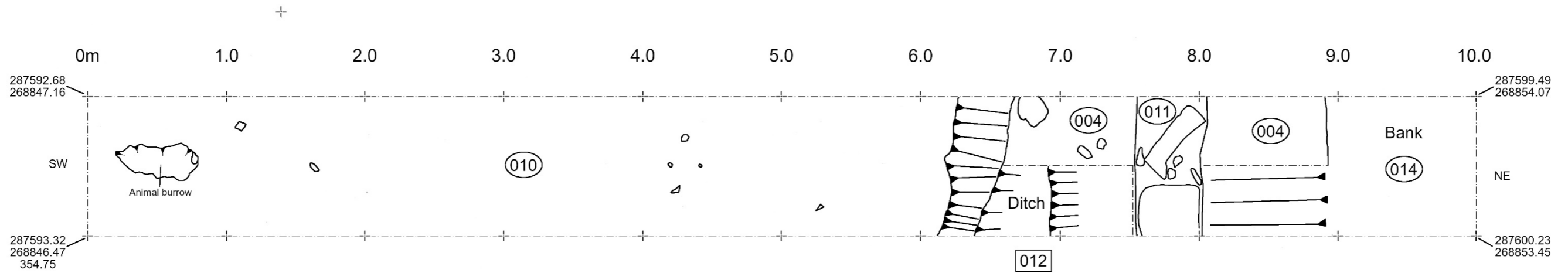
Plate 23: LAC2021_123. A Lidar image of the enclosure viewed from the south. Contains Natural Resources Wales information © Natural Resources Wales and database right



Plate 24: LAC2021_124. The Mesolithic microlith found during the evaluation. Its presence attests to the fact that Mesolithic hunters would have visited the valley over 6,000 years ago.

APPENDIX B:

DRAWINGS



**LAC2021
DRAWING 202
4/09/2021
1:20 Scale
TRENCH PLAN**

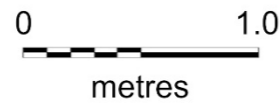
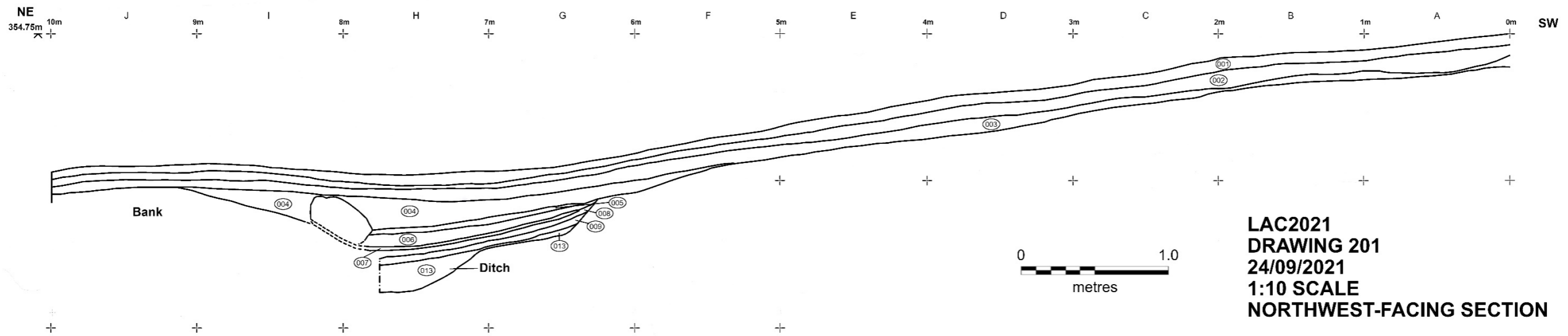


Figure 6: Plan of the excavated trench



**LAC2021
DRAWING 201
24/09/2021
1:10 SCALE
NORTHWEST-FACING SECTION**

Figure 7: The northwest facing section after excavation

APPENDIX C:

ARTEFACT REPORTS

**Flint Artefact – Ian Brooks
Other Finds – Martin Locock**

**Flint artefact from Lluest Abercaethon
Trysor LAC2021, context 003**

I.P. Brooks

An edge blunted microlith (Ballin 2021, 37) with a slightly curved, modified, left-hand edge and a curved, unmodified right-hand edge, 18.7 x 8.0 x 3.3 mm in size. The artefact is based on a modified secondary bladelet of a high quality, moderate yellowish brown (10 YR 5/4), moderately translucent flint. It has a small fragment of worn cortex on distal, left end suggesting the origin raw material source was probably a pebble source. The proximal left edge has inverse, abrupt retouch for approximately 8 mm, whereas the distal, left tip retains a patch of worn cortex. The platform has been trimmed with direct retouch. There is macroscopic use wear along the right side.

The size and form of this artefact would suggest a Late Mesolithic date. The recovery of only a single knapped artefact from the excavation would suggest that this is a stray artefact, probably a hunting loss. The flint from which it is made is of high quality, although it was probably a cobble or pebble from a derived flint source such as a gravel or till. David and Walker (2004, 321) have noted the prevalent use of beach flint in Late Mesolithic assemblages, if so the raw material for this artefact has been imported from a considerable distance.

Ballin, T.B. 2021. *Classification of lithic artefacts from the British Late Glacial and Holocene Periods*. Archaeopress Publishing Ltd, Oxford
David, A. and Walker, E.A. 2004. Wales during the Mesolithic period. In Saville, A. *Mesolithic Scotland and its neighbours. The Early Holocene prehistory of Scotland, its British and Irish context and some Northern European perspectives*. Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, Edinburgh.



Figure 8: Photograph of the Mesolithic flint

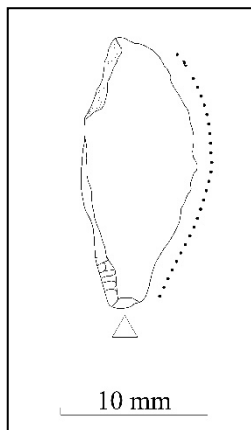


Figure 9: Photograph of the Mesolithic flint, copyright EAS Ltd

Other finds

By Martin Locock BA MCIFA

Introduction

A small group of post-medieval finds were recovered from contexts 002, 003 and 004, upper fills of the ditch.

Material present

Type	No.	Weight (g)
Pottery	20	74.78
Glass	1	2.26
Iron	5	16.03
Stone	8	48.62
Ceramic building material	1	0.36
Animal bone	2	6.09
Daub	1	1.48

Pottery

All datable pottery is clearly 19th century in date. Total EVE less than 1.

Ware	No.	Weight (g)
Whiteware	11	37.15
Black-glazed red earthenware	4	20.77
Red earthenware	2	9.49
Brown-glazed red earthenware	2	7.09
Mocha-type ware	1	0.28

The pottery is a mixture of mass-produced table and kitchen ware.

Glass

A single piece of window glass was found, 2mm thick.

Iron

A total of five iron objects were recovered, two heavily-corroded nails (length 44mm, 33mm) and three small lumps.

Stone

A total of 8 stones were recovered, a thick stone squared roofing slate with bevelled edge, and 7 small pebbles and stone fragments.

Ceramic Building Material

A small brick fragment was found.

Animal bone

Two bone fragments, sheep/goat ribs, were recovered. They were burnt.

Daub

A single fragment of daub was found.

Discussion

All of the recovered material would appear to be of 19th century date.

Project ID	LAC2021	LAC2021	LAC2021	LAC2021	LAC2021	LAC2021	LAC2021	LAC2021	LAC2021	LAC2021
Context ID	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	4	4
Bulk sample ID										
Material ID Code	4.4	5	6.4	1.1	1.4	4.1	4.4	10.1	4.4	3.3
Material Class	Ceramic	Glass	Metal	Stone	Stone	Ceramic	Ceramic	Animal	Ceramic	Earth mix
Object Type										
Material Type	Pottery	Glass	Iron	Natural stone	Worked slate	Ceramic Building Material	Pottery	Animal bone	Pottery	Daub
Material Detail										
Collected Fragment Count	9	1	4	7	1	1	3	2	8	1
Collected Weight (g)	22.29	2.26	13.46	48.62	2.26	0.36	11.02	6.09	41.37	1.48

Figure 10: Table showing contexts and artefacts

28/11/22

APPENDIX D:
ARCHIVE INDEX

The archive will consist of the following categories and be deposited with the National Monuments Record in Aberystwyth.

A. Documentary:

A.1 Written Material

Site notes and context sheets

A.2 Drawings

Site plan and section on permatrace

Site plan and section as jpg

A.3 Photographs

24 tiffs

Photo catalogue within the report

A.4 Digital Material

Final report as pdf

WSI as an appendix within the report

Site handout

B. Material Archive

B.1 Significant Artefacts

Mesolithic Flake – To be deposited with Carad in Rhayader

B.2 Other Artefacts

19th century material - To be deposited with Carad in Rhayader

APPENDIX E:

**WRITTEN SCHEME
OF INVESTIGATION**

**WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION
LLEUST ABERCAETHON, ELAN VALLEY
SN8757268822
September 2021**

Contents

1	Introduction	1
2.	Location of Lluest Abercaethon	1
3.	Objective of the Written Scheme of Investigation	3
4.	Nature of the Archaeological Resource	3
5.	Scope of Work	6
6.	Methodology	6
7.	Recording – Excavation and Post Excavation	7
8.	Contingency Arrangements	8
9.	Reporting	8
10.	Health & Safety	9
11.	Public Benefit and Outreach	9
12.	Archive	9
13.	Resources to be used	9
14.	Qualification of personnel	10
15.	Specialists	10
16.	Insurance & Professional indemnity	11
17.	Project identification	11
18.	Monitoring	11
19.	Sources	11
	Appendix 1 Selection Strategy	12
	Appendix 2 Data Management Plan	23

1. Introduction

1.1 Elan Valley Trust, through the HLF funded Elan Links scheme, has commissioned Trysor heritage consultants to provide a Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological investigation at Lluest Abercaethon, SN8757268822, to the west of the Craig Goch Reservoir.

1.2 This is part of Elan Links 4a: Safeguarding Elan's Historic Environment strand of the HLF project which seeks to ensure that key built heritage and ancient heritage sites are protected to safeguard and maintain their condition into the future.

1.3 The earthwork enclosure at Lluest Abercaethon was identified as being at Moderate Risk in a Heritage at Risk survey carried in 2017 as part of the supporting documentation for the HLF bid (Trysor, 2017). This feature would be susceptible to any future vehicular activity or farming activity in view of its proximity to a trackway. In order to better protect it, it needs to be better understood.

1.4 A geophysical survey was undertaken in 2020 by Ian Brooks of Engineering Archaeological Services, and a topographical survey, also by Ian Brooks, in 2021.

1.5 An evaluation trench is proposed to order to ascertain the nature of the bank and of the feature shown in the centre of the enclosure, and to obtain dating material if possible to help understand the function and date of the feature.

2. Location of Lluest Abercaethon

2.1 The enclosure lies at SN8859268879 between the trackway to the abandoned and ruined Lluest Abercaethon farm to the north and the Nant Lwyd, a small tributary to the Nant Cletwr, to the south.

2.2 The feature does not lie within the Elenydd SSSI, an extensive SSSI covering 22,770 hectares.

2.3 The site lies over interbedded sandstones and mudstones of the Glanrafon Formation (lower Tongue) laid down approximately 433 to 439 million years ago in the Silurian Period. The local environment at that time was deep seas and the rocks formed from slurries of debris from the continental shelf sediments into the deeper seas which were then re-deposited as graded beds (BGS, 2021).

2.3.1 The superficial geology, above the bedrock, is described as Devensian - Diamicton. formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. These detrital sediments were deposited during ice age conditions as a result of the action of ice and meltwater (BGS, 2021).

2.4 Although the soil is recording as being a very acid loamy upland soils with a wet peaty surface, (LANDIS, accessed 16/09/2021) it may be closer to being a freely draining acid loamy soils over rock, recorded in the lower levels of the valley.

*Elan Links: Archaeological Evaluation
Llest Abercaethon Enclosure,
Elan Valley, Powys*

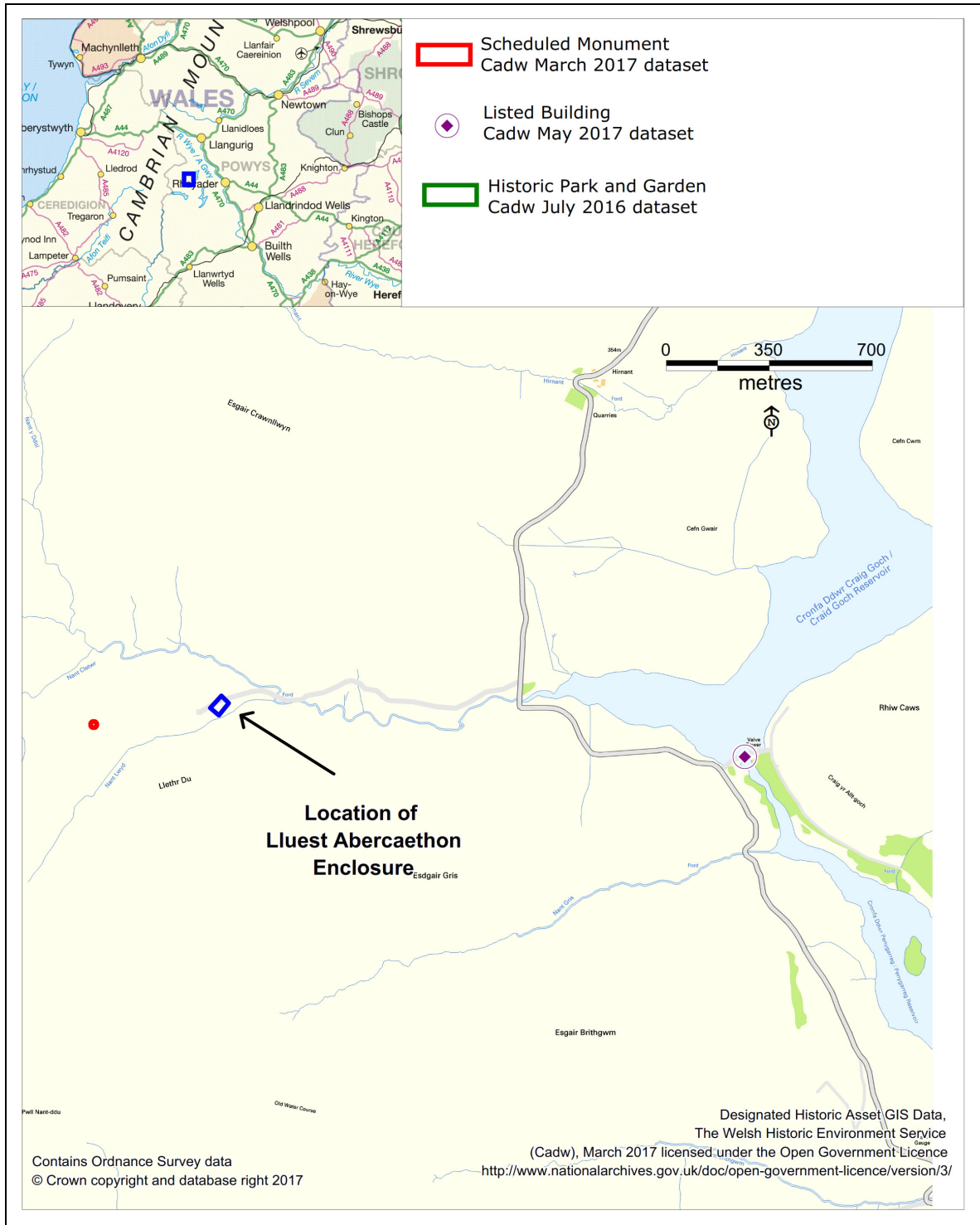


Figure 1: The approximate location of the enclosure at Llest Abercaethon, Elan Valley

3. Objective of the Written Scheme of Investigation

3.1 The objective of this written scheme of investigation (WSI) is to specify the method to be used for the archaeological works.

3.2 The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (CIfA, 2020b) was used to write this Written Scheme of Investigation.

4. Nature of the Archaeological Resource

4.1 The Lluest Abercaethon enclosure was identified as one of 80 historic assets at risk within the Elan Links boundary (Trysor, 2017). It is recorded in the National Monuments Record curated by the RCAHMW under NPRN 261659 and in the regional Historic Environment Record managed by Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust under PRN 43942. It is not a scheduled monument.

4.2 The earthwork was originally recorded as a possible Bronze Age Ring Cairn during an Upland Survey undertaken by Richard S Jones but the true date and function of the monument remain unknown. It is a large, banked, sub-circular earthwork, approximately 30 metres in diameter. It is partly terraced into the gentle slope and there is some evidence of an internal ditch, parallel to the bank, at the lower, northeastern side of the earthwork.

4.3 In order to understand more about the feature geophysical survey was undertaken in August 2020 by Ian Brooks of Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd. Both fluxgate gradiometer and resistivity surveys were completed, see Figures 2 and 3. These showed the enclosure bank but also suggested that there is a feature within the enclosure.

4.4 Topographical survey was undertaken Ian Brooks of Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd and Trysor in August 2021 to help define the feature and locate the position for an evaluation trench.

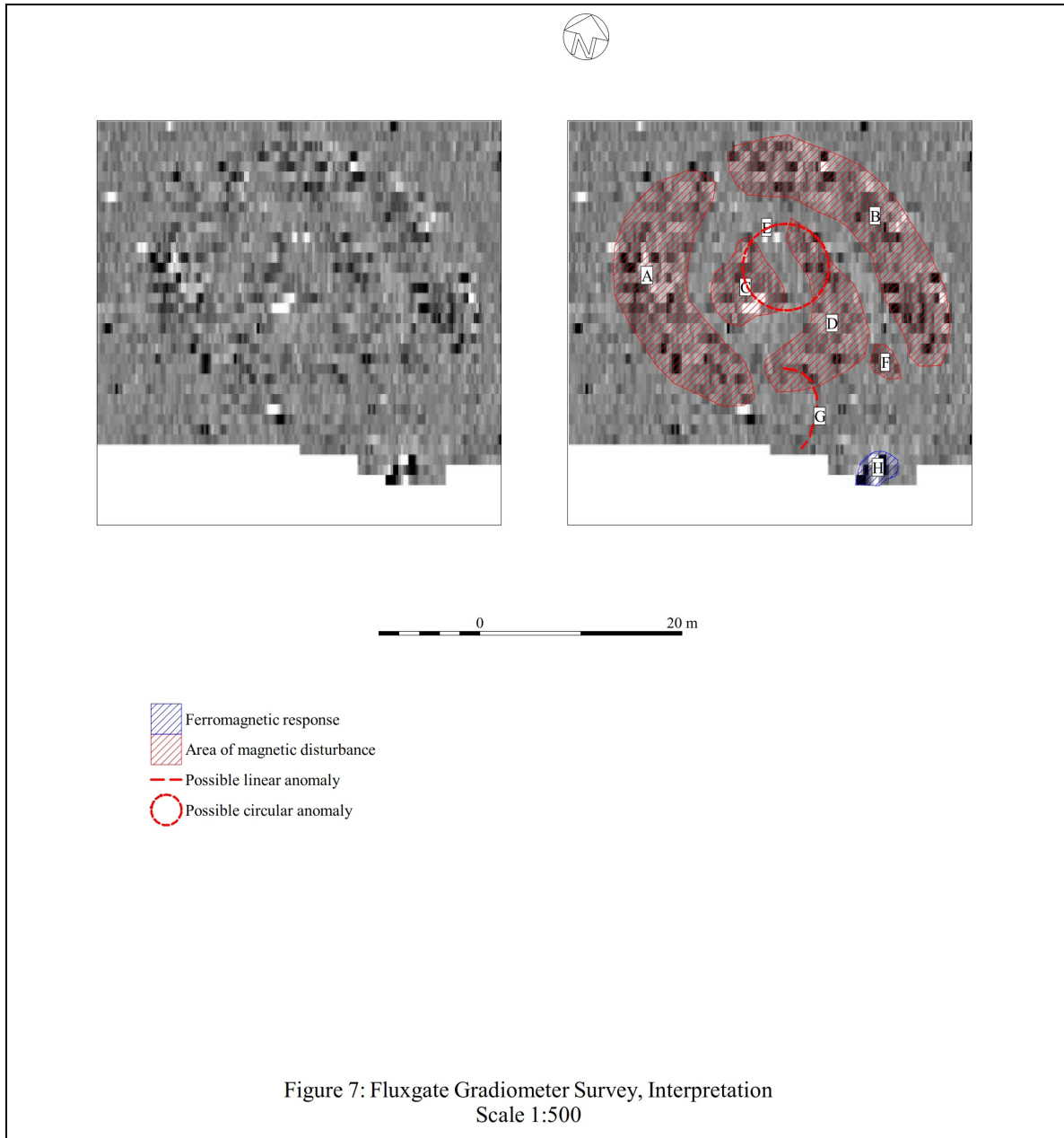


Fig 2: Fluxgate Gradiometer Survey results

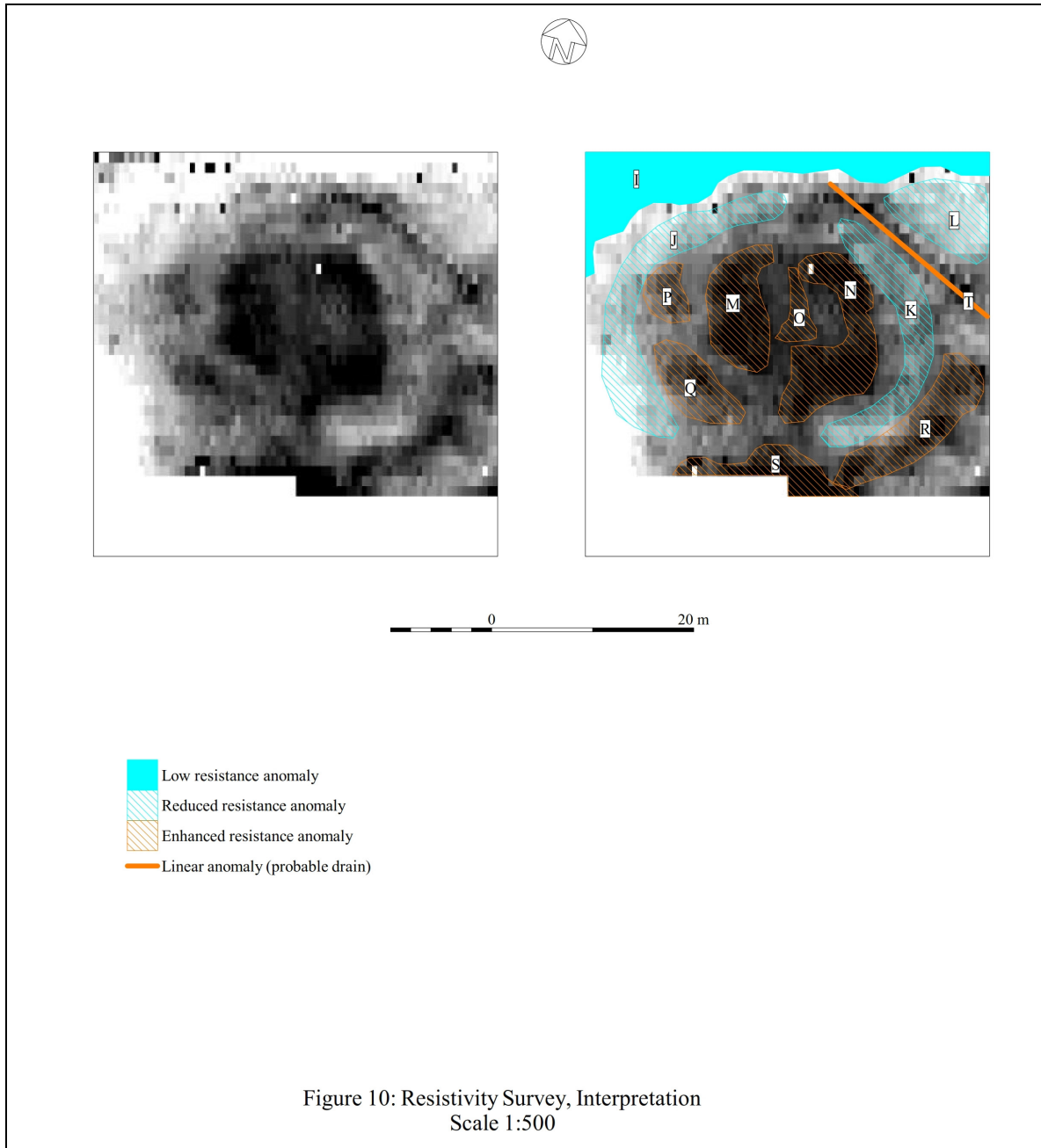


Fig 3: Resistivity Survey

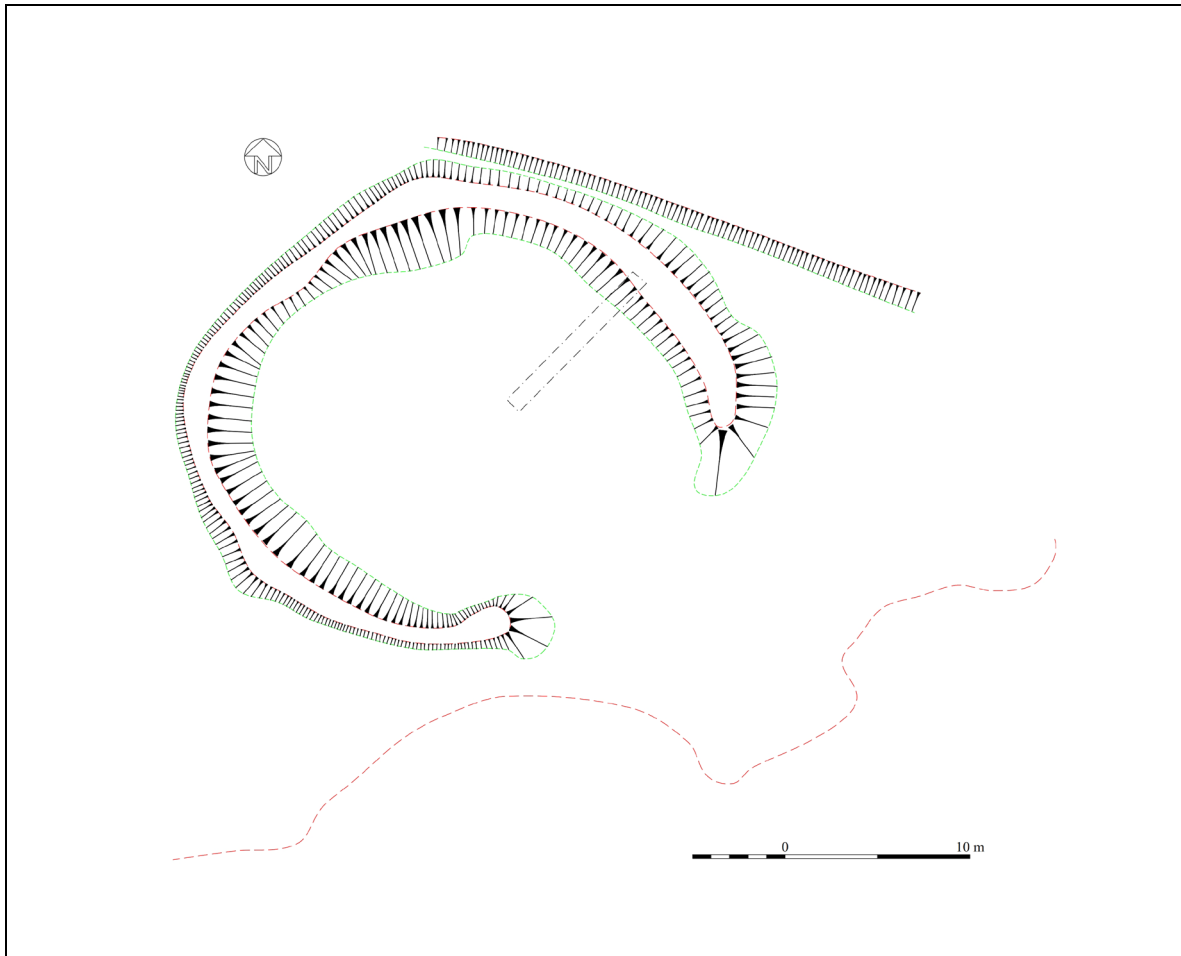


Fig 4: Topographical Survey

5. Scope of Work

5.1 A trench 1 metre wide and up to 10 metres in length will be excavated northeast to southwest. The trench will take in part of the northeastern side of the bank of the enclosure and into the interior. This will determine the nature of the bank, whether there is an internal ditch, and the nature of the activity within the enclosure.

5.2 Excavation will continue until the nature of the bank, and internal features has been observed and recorded. The internal features will be excavated until their nature has been ascertained and dating material retrieved.

6. Methodology

6.1 The excavation will be undertaken by at least two people at all times, there will be no lone working. The Elan Valley Trust will be notified when the excavation will take place in order to inform tenants and other interested parties.

6.2 This excavation does not involve community participation due to respect for the tenant.

6.3 The site is accessible to the public as it is on Open Access land on which anyone can walk, so suitable measures will be put in place. Safety fencing or tape will be placed

around any evaluation trenches whilst open. The trench will either be filled in at the end of the day or appropriate fencing used to isolate the site. All tools will be stored away off site.

6.4 The turf will be carefully removed and placed to the side of the trench. The turf will be reinstated when the trench is backfilled.

6.5 All sources of ignition will be banned from the site. No fires will be lit and smoking will not be allowed on site, or on the walk to site.

6.6 All necessary precautions will be taken to avoid causing any unwarranted damage to roads, tracks, lands, properties, trees, drains and other features taking particular note of the SSSI and SPA status of the area. Trydor will deal with all comments and complaints by owners, tenants, visitors or interested parties, unless outside the scope of the excavation.

6.7 There will be no machinery or chemicals on site.

6.8 On completion of the works the contractor will leave the site in a professional condition and repair any disturbance to the site to the satisfaction of all interested parties.

6.9 The trench will be hand dug using appropriate tools.

6.10 Excavation will continue until the nature of the bank, and internal features has been observed and recorded. The internal features will not be fully excavated if their nature has been ascertained and dating material retrieved.

6.11 Subsequent to the fieldwork component of this project, a public exhibition or talk will be given.

7. Recording – Excavation and Post Excavation

7.1 A written record of all activity will be kept as well as context records on pro-forma sheets for all archaeological contexts, based on the CEU recording manual. The notes and context sheets will form part of the project archive.

7.2 A plan of the location of the trench and representative sections of the trench will be drawn, at appropriate scales. If any archaeological features are observed, they will be excavated and recorded, photographed, and planned at an appropriate scale. Plans will be drawn on permatrace to a scale of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50, as appropriate.

The trench corners were plotted in using the total station during the topographical survey, and linked to the Ordnance Survey grid. Levels will be taken from a site datum which will be cross referenced to the Ordnance Survey.

7.3 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)*. . All artefacts will be retained, cleaned and stored. They will be catalogued by context, including dimensions, weight, number, and description as relevant. Significant artefacts will be drawn at an appropriate scale.

7.4 Deposits of environmental or technological significance will be sampled according to *A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* published in 2002 as one of the Centre for Archaeology Guidelines by English Heritage.

7.5 In the event of human burials being discovered the Ministry of Justice will be informed. The remains will initially be left *in situ*, and if removal is required, a Ministry of Justice licence will be applied for under the Burial Act 1857.

7.6 Colour digital photographs will be taken, as appropriate, using an 18M pixel camera. A written record will be made on site of the photographs taken. Appropriate photographic scales will be used. The photographs will be archived with a full catalogue showing location of photographs and direction taken. Photographs will be archived in TIF format.

8. Contingency arrangements if archaeological features are discovered

8.1 In the event that archaeological remains are encountered where appropriate investigation falls outside the scope of this specification, a meeting between Trysor, and the client will be convened in order to agree a course of action. The client will be responsible for paying for any further work necessary such as curatorial monitoring, finds conservation, finds specialist, radio-carbon dating etc.

9. Reporting

9.1 Following the completion of the on-site work, a report on the archaeological work will be prepared according to the requirements of section 3.4 of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (CIfA, 2014a)*

9.2 The report will address the aims and purposes of the evaluation and be fully representative of the information gained including negative evidence. It will contain at a minimum:

- A non-technical summary of the archaeological works
- Introductory statement
- Aims and purposes of the archaeological works
- Methodology
- Results including documentary research, structural data and associated finds and/or environmental data recovered, details will be included in appendices as appropriate
- Interpretation
- Discussion/Conclusion
- Index to Archive and location of archive
- Illustrations, including a location plan
- Bibliography

9.3 Copies of the report will be provided to the client, to the National Monuments Record and the Powys Historic Environment Record.

10. Health & Safety

10.1 Trysor will undertake a risk assessment in advance of the fieldwork in accordance with their health and safety policy. This will be updated daily to take account of changing circumstances, in particular with regard to Covid 19.

10.2 It is not possible to have welfare facilities on site and the public toilets at the Craig Goch dam 2 miles to the southeast will be closed during this period. The nearest toilets are at the Elan Valley Visitor Centre, and in the centre of Rhayader. Hand washing facilities will be provided on site as well as an enhanced First Aid kit.

11. Public Benefit and Outreach

11.1 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 by the Council for British Archaeology Wales (CBA Wales). If appropriate, a full report on findings will be submitted for publication with an appropriate regional or national archaeological journal within one year of the completion of the fieldwork element of the project.

11.2 The results of the work will be deposited in the NMR and regional HER making it publicly accessible to all, in line with current guidance, (NPAAW, 2017, RCAHMW, 2015 and WAT, 2018).

11.3 The purpose of the work and the history of the site will be discussed with the client and others on site, in order to widen understanding of why the work is important and broaden appreciation for the historic environment.

11.4 A daily roundup will be placed on social media so that others can learn about the work and comment.

11.5 Subsequent to the fieldwork component of this project, a public display/interaction will be held in collaboration with the Elan Links project.

12. Archive

12.1 The paper and digital archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Record and Historic Environment 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. Digital archives will follow the standard required by the RCAHMW (RCAHMW, 2015).

12.2 After recording and reporting, any artefacts will be deposited in a suitable location, after consultation with the landowner.

13. Resources to be used

13.1 Jenny Hall, BSC, MCIfA and Paul Sambrook, BA, PGCE, MCIfA of Trysor will undertake the fieldwork outlined and reporting and archiving. During the fieldwork they will be equipped with standard field equipment, including digital cameras, GPS and first aid kit. Trysor have access to the computer hardware and software required to deliver the completed final report and archive to a professional standard.

14. Qualification of personnel

14.1 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

14.2 Jenny Hall (BSc Joint Hons., Geology and Archaeology, MCIfA) had 12 years excavation experience, which included undertaking area and trench excavation, watching briefs and post excavation work. She worked on the extensive Stanwick Roman villa project in Northamptonshire for several seasons and undertook a year of postexcavation work with the project. In 1993 she became the Sites and Monuments Record Manager for a Dyfed Archaeological Trust for 10 years. She has been a partner in Trysor since 2004 undertaking a variety of work that includes upland field survey, desk-based appraisals and assessments, watching briefs and evaluations as well heritage interpretation and community-based projects.

14.3 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 a partner in Trysor since 2004 undertaking a variety of work including upland field survey, desk-based appraisals/assessments, watching briefs and evaluations as well as community-based, non-intrusive projects and community heritage interpretation.

15. Specialists

15.1 Dee Williams (BA Archaeology and Classical Studies) graduated from the University of Wales, Lampeter. After University she pursued a career in field archaeology. Her first supervisory post was with Wessex Archaeology (Manpower Service Commission 1984-5) as the Finds Officer on a large multi-period urban excavation in Dorchester. From 1986 to 1994 she was employed as the Finds Officer with the Dyfed Archaeological Trust. From 1994 to the present she has worked as an administrator in the Department of Archaeology at Lampeter but continues her research interests in finds with specialisms in ceramics and glass.

15.2 Martin Locock (BA, MCIfA) – Martin has undertaken many bone reports for Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust and others. He has also undertaken studies of bricks and mortar.

15.3 Dr Ian Brooks (PhD, BA, MCIfA, FSA) - Flint assemblages of any size from a single artefact to many thousands of artefacts can be analysed. Recent projects have varied from a few artefacts recovered during the excavation of a late medieval house in North Wales to over 16,000 Mesolithic artefacts from Bath. In addition to standard typological studies Ian Brooks has developed specialist techniques to investigate the original source of the flint and the deliberate heat treatment of flint by the use of micropalaeontology.

15.4 Wendy Carruthers (BSc, MSc) has worked as a freelance archaeobotanist for over 30 years, mainly analysing plant macrofossils from sites in southern and central England and Wales. After graduating in Manchester she worked as a field botanist for a year, followed by a couple of years on archaeological excavations as a digger and planner. I then took the Masters course in Plant Taxonomy at Reading, and started working as a freelance archaeobotanist after I graduated. In the early 1990s she was the English Heritage Archaeobotanist at the Ancient Monuments Laboratory for four years. Over the years she

has analysed charred, waterlogged, mineralised, silicified and desiccated plant remains. She is particularly interested in preservation by mineralisation.

16. Insurance & Professional indemnity

16.1 Trysor has Public Liability, Employers Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance.

17. Project identification

17.1 The project has been designated Trysor Project No. 2021/655. Identifying site code will be LAB2021. The Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust HER Event PRN is 167102.

18. Monitoring

18.1 Elan Valley Trust/Elan Links Project will be informed as to when work will start on site.

19. Sources

BGS, 2021, *British Geological Survey map viewer* accessed 14th September 2021

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

Brooks, I, 2020, *Llest Abercaethon: Geophysical Surveys*, EAS Client Report 2020/06

Brooks, I, 2021, *Llest Abercaethon: Topographical Surveys*

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014a, *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials*

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014b, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*

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

Trysor, 2017, *Elan Links Heritage at Risk Part One*

Trysor, 2017, *Elan Links Heritage at Risk Part Two – Site Gazetteer*

Jenny Hall & Paul Sambrook

Trysor,

September 2021

APPENDIX 1: SELECTION STRATEGY

**Llest Abercaethon
16/09/2021 v.1
Selection Strategy**

Project Information		
Project Management		
Project Manager	Jenny Hall & Paul Sambrook	
Archaeological Archive Manager	Jenny Hall & Paul Sambrook	
Organisation	Trydor	
Stakeholders		Date Contacted
<p style="text-align: center;">Collecting Institution(s)</p> <p><i>A collecting institution for artefacts will only be contacted in advance of site work, if the potential for artefacts from sealed contexts is assessed as Moderate to Very High. The scale of field work and where it is situated geographically will be considered when making this initial assessment</i></p>	<p>Artefact archive not contacted yet. Potential for artefacts that require archiving considered Low, due to geographic location, soil type, and possible nature of buried archaeological features. There are unlikely to be modern or post med artefacts within topsoil due to its remoteness. Artefacts from non-sealed contexts will be noted and returned to landowner unless they are assessed as of regional or national importance. Artefacts from sealed contexts will be retained and recorded. A decision will be made at that point if any need to be deposited in an archive, when their significance has been assessed against the results of the watching brief. Digital /paper archive to be archived with RCAHMW, with copies to HER if they wish.</p>	Not contacted
Project Lead / Project Assurance	Jenny Hall and Paul Sambrook	
Landowner / Developer	See WSI	
Other	-	

Resources

Resources required

Describe the resources required to implement this Selection Strategy, particularly if unusual resources are required.

No unusual resources required to date, beyond trays, bags, markers record sheets. The potential for artefacts from sealed contexts is assessed as Low. Artefacts from the topsoil will be recorded and returned to the landowner, unless they are assessed as being of regional or national importance.

Context

Describe below the context of this Selection Strategy. You should refer to:

- The aims and objectives of the project;
- Local Authority guidance (including the brief);
- Research Frameworks;
- The repository collection development policy and/or deposition policy;
- Material-specific guidance documents.

Note: This section may be copied from your Project Design/WSI to ensure all Stakeholders receive this context information.

- The aims and objectives of the project are to record and protect the historic environment whilst enabling development
- The methodology to be used and its context is given in this Written Scheme of Investigation.
- The Research Framework for the Archaeology of Wales identifies areas of past, current and future archaeological research in Wales
<https://www.archaeoleg.org.uk/intro.html>
The first priority is to identify what period this feature belongs to and what its function might be. It is unusual for the area, and when its nature is better understood it can be managed appropriately.
- If necessary a suitable artefact archive will be identified using *National Standards for the Collecting and Depositing of Archaeological Archives in Wales 2017*, Part 6. Museums in Wales Collecting Archaeology
Artefact retention and disposal will be guided by the 2019 document from the National Panel for Archaeological Archives in Wales, *Archaeological Archives: Selection, Retention and Disposal Guidelines for Wales*

Stakeholders

Name the individual(s) responsible for the Digital Data Selection decisions (i.e. Archaeological Archive Manager, Project Manager, Collections Curator).

Jenny Hall & Paul Sambrook

Selection

Location of Data Management Plan (DMP)

Selection of digital data elements should be considered in your project's DMP. For the purpose of the Selection Strategy, you can either copy the selection section of your DMP below, or attach it as an appendix to this document. Please indicate here if the DMP is attached.

Appendix 2 of this WSI

The selection strategy in your DMP should:

- 1.1 Define what digital data will be selected for inclusion in the archaeological archive, how this will be done, and why. Do not forget to consider that specialists may have digital data that should be included in the archaeological archive.
- 1.2 Identify the selection review points during the project (i.e. project planning, data gathering, analysis and reporting and archive compilation).
- 1.3 Reference all relevant standards, policies or guidelines (e.g. digital repository deposition requirements) and specialist advice sought.
- 1.4 Identify any selection decisions that differ from standard guidelines and explain why.

- a) Final report as pdf file which will include WSI and any specialist reports if needed
- b) Selected and catalogued photographs as Tiffs file

Additional files may include

- c) Vector GIS files as .shp files
- d) Drawings as .pdf files
- e) Scanned context sheets/site notes as pdf

NPAAW, 2017, The National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales 2017

RCAHMW, 2015, RCAHMW guidelines for Digital Archives, Version 1

WAT, 2018, Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs)

De-Selected Digital Data

The procedure for dealing with De-selected digital data and what specialist advice informed this process should be recorded in your DMP. Please copy this information here or attach your DMP as an appendix to this document.

See Appendix B in this WSI

Amendments

*Elan Links: Archaeological Evaluation
Llest Abercaethon Enclosure,
Elan Valley, Powys*

Detail any amendments to the above selection strategy here. The Selection Strategy will be reviewed after fieldwork is complete when the digital data created will be clearer

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

2 – Documents

Stakeholders

Name the individual(s) responsible for the Documents Selection decisions (i.e. Archaeological Archive Manager, Project Manager, Repository Representative).

Jenny Hall & Paul Sambrook

Selection

Describe your Selection Strategy for the Documents elements of the archaeological archive. To do this you must:

- 2.1 Define which documents will be selected for inclusion in the archaeological archive, how this will be done, and why. Do not forget to consider that specialists may have documents that should be included in the archaeological archive.
- 2.2 Identify the selection review points during the project (e.g. project planning, data gathering, analysis and reporting and archive compilation).
- 2.3 Reference all relevant standards, policies or guidelines (e.g. digital repository deposition requirements) and specialist advice sought.
- 2.4 Identify any selection decisions that differ from standard guidelines and explain why.

a) Final report as pdf file which will include WSI and any specialist reports if needed. This is the version sent to client and approved by third parties. Specialist reports will be contained within that report

b) Selected and catalogued photographs as Tiffs file

Additional files may include: to be reviewed after site work

- c) Vector GIS files as .shp files
- d) Drawings as .pdf files
- e) Scanned context sheets/site notes as pdf

NPAAW, 2017, *The National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales 2017*

RCAHMW, 2015, *RCAHMW guidelines for Digital Archives, Version 1*

WAT, 2018, *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs)*

De-Selected Documents

Describe the procedure for dealing with De-selected material and what specialist advice has informed this procedure.

Deselected digital documents will be retained within Trydor backups.

The process is one of selection rather than deselection.

Amendments

Detail any amendments to the above selection strategy here.

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

3 – Materials

Note: This step should be completed for each material component of the archaeological archive. Copy this table for the various materials as required, providing the 'Material Type' and a section identifier (eg. '3.1') for each.

Material type

Digital

Section
3.1

Stakeholders

Name the individual(s) responsible for the Materials Selection decisions (i.e. Archaeological Archive Manager, Project Manager, Repository Representative).

Jenny Hall & Paul Sambrook

Selection

Describe your Selection Strategy for each material type and or object type. To do this you must:

- 3.1 State the Selection Strategy you are applying to each category of material, how this will be done, and why.
- 3.2 Identify the selection review points during the project (e.g. project planning, data gathering, analysis and reporting and archive compilation).
- 3.3 Reference all relevant standards, policies or guidelines (e.g. thematic, period, and regional, Research Frameworks, repository deposition policies) and specialist advice sought.
- 3.4 Identify any selection decisions that differ from standard guidelines and explain why.

The Materials Selection Template may be useful in structuring this section.

As described in the Data Management Plan and above

Uncollected Material

If you are practising selection in the field, describe the process that will be applied. To do this you must:

- Detail how you will characterise, quantify and record all uncollected material on site.
- Explain how you will dispose of, or re-distribute, uncollected material.

Not applicable

De-Selected Material

Describe what you will do with the de-selected material. All processed material should have been adequately recorded before de-selection.

Kept within Trysor backups

Amendments

Detail any amendments to the above selection strategy here.

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

3 – Materials

Note: This step should be completed for each material component of the archaeological archive. Copy this table for the various materials as required, providing the 'Material Type' and a section identifier (eg. '3.1') for each.

Material type	Paper	Section	3.2
----------------------	-------	----------------	-----

Stakeholders

Name the individual(s) responsible for the Materials Selection decisions (i.e. Archaeological Archive Manager, Project Manager, Repository Representative).

Jenny Hall & Paul Sambrook

Selection

Describe your Selection Strategy for each material type and or object type. To do this you must:

- 4.1 State the Selection Strategy you are applying to each category of material, how this will be done, and why.
- 4.2 Identify the selection review points during the project (e.g. project planning, data gathering, analysis and reporting and archive compilation).
- 4.3 Reference all relevant standards, policies or guidelines (e.g. thematic, period, and regional, Research Frameworks, repository deposition policies) and specialist advice sought.
- 4.4 Identify any selection decisions that differ from standard guidelines and explain

why.

The [Materials Selection Template](#) may be useful in structuring this section.

Field notes and context sheets – bound and presented as paper archive

Uncollected Material

If you are practising selection in the field, describe the process that will be applied. To do this you must:

- Detail how you will characterise, quantify and record all uncollected material on site.
- Explain how you will dispose of, or re-distribute, uncollected material.

De-Selected Material

Describe what you will do with the de-selected material. All processed material should have been adequately recorded before de-selection.

Kept within Trydor archive folders

Amendments

Detail any amendments to the above selection strategy here.

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

3 – Materials

Note: This step should be completed for each material component of the archaeological archive. Copy this table for the various materials as required, providing the 'Material Type' and a section identifier (eg. '3.1') for each.

Material type	Artefacts	Section 3.3	
----------------------	-----------	------------------------------	--

Stakeholders

Name the individual(s) responsible for the Materials Selection decisions (i.e. Archaeological Archive Manager, Project Manager, Repository Representative).

Jenny Hall & Paul Sambrook

Selection

Describe your Selection Strategy for each material type and or object type. To do this you must:

- 5.1 State the Selection Strategy you are applying to each category of material, how this will be done, and why.
- 5.2 Identify the selection review points during the project (e.g. project planning, data gathering, analysis and reporting and archive compilation).
- 5.3 Reference all relevant standards, policies or guidelines (e.g. thematic, period, and regional, Research Frameworks, repository deposition policies) and specialist advice sought.
- 5.4 Identify any selection decisions that differ from standard guidelines and explain why.

The [Materials Selection Template](#) may be useful in structuring this section.

As stated above

Uncollected Material

If you are practising selection in the field, describe the process that will be applied. To do this you must:

- Detail how you will characterise, quantify and record all uncollected material on site.
- Explain how you will dispose of, or re-distribute, uncollected material.

As stated above

De-Selected Material

Describe what you will do with the de-selected material. All processed material should have been adequately recorded before de-selection.

Kept within Trysor archive folders

Amendments

Detail any amendments to the above selection strategy here.

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders
-------------	------------------	------------------	---------------------

Materials Selection Template

This table may be inserted into Section 3 of the main Selection Strategy Template to help present differing selection strategies for different material types

Find Type	Selection Strategy	Stakeholders	Review Points

Jenny Hall and Paul Sambrook
Trysor
www.tryzor.net

38, New Road,
Gwaun Cae Gurwen
Ammanford
Carmarthenshire
SA18 1UN
enquiries@tryzor.net
Work Digital / Think Archive - Data Management Plan Overview

**Llest Abercaethon
16/09/2021 v.1
Data Management Plan**

This document forms part of the Work Digital / Think Archive guidance for digital archives prepared by DigVentures, on behalf of Archaeological Archives Forum and in partnership with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. The project was funded by Historic England (Project No. 7796).

This has been adapted by Trysor for use.

The sections below are the basic components of the Data Management Plan. Each section comprises a series of sections which need to be completed.

The Work Digital / Think Archive guidance provides a full version of this document which includes Questions to Consider, Guidance and Examples where appropriate.

Section 1: Project Administration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key project details, unique identifiers and contacts <p>See main part of WSI</p>
Section 2: Data Collection
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What data will you collect or create? How will the data be collected or created? <p>See main part of WSI and Appendix A for artefacts. Digital data : Catalogues photographs, Report as pdf.</p>
Section 3: Documentation and Metadata
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What documentation and metadata will accompany the data?
Section 4: Ethics and Legal Compliance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How will you manage any ethical, copyright and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) issues? <p>A statement will be included in the report. The report will be the copyright of Trysor. Other copyrights/rights will be identified acknowledged.</p>
Section 5: Storage and Backup
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How will the data be stored, accessed and backed up during the research? <p>Through Online storage via Dropbox, Backups onto partners external hard drives</p>
Section 6: Selection and Preservation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Which should be retained, shared, and/or preserved? What is the long-term preservation plan for the dataset? Have you contacted the data repository? Have the costs of archiving been fully considered? <p>Data repository (NMR) not contacted yet, small project The main digital elements to be preserved long term are the report and the photographs Costs of archiving have been considered</p>
Section 7: Data Sharing and Accessibility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How will you share the data and make it accessible?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are any restrictions on data sharing required? Through archiving – no restrictions other than acknowledgement
Section 8: Responsibilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who will be responsible for data management? Jenny Hall & Paul Sambook

Section 1: Project Administration

Project ID / OASIS ID
Not Applicable, HER Event number is 167102
Project Name
See main part of WSI
Project Description
See main part of WSI
Project Funder / Grant reference
Client
Project Manager
Jenny Hall & Paul Sambrook
Principal Investigator / Researcher
Jenny Hall & Paul Sambrook
Data Contact Person
Jenny Hall & Paul Sambrook
Date DMP created
Jenny Hall & Paul Sambrook
Date DMP last updated
16 th September 2021
Version
1
Related data management policies
NPAAW, 2017, <i>The National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales 2017</i>
RCAHMW, 2015, <i>RCAHMW guidelines for Digital Archives, Version 1</i>
WAT, 2018, <i>Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs)</i>

Section 2: Data Collection

What data will you collect or create?
Site notes including context sheets on paper Photographs Report GIS data

How will the data be collected or created?
Site notes on paper on site Photographs on site, selected and catalogued in the office. Tiff files Report written in Word, GIS components in MapInfo

Section 3: Documentation and metadata

What documentation and metadata will accompany the data?
The report will accompany any data. Relevant metadata will be created

Section 4: Ethics and legal compliance

How will you manage any ethical, copyright and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) issues?
Appropriately taking into account other peoples rights. All agreements with others will be adhered to.

Section 5: Data Security: Storage and Backup

How will the data be stored, accessed and backed up during the research?
Shared Dropbox with facility to retrieve earlier versions. Locally backed up on partners' external hard drive

Section 6: Selection and Preservation

Which data should be retained, shared, and/or preserved?
Report, catalogued photographs
What is the long-term preservation plan for the dataset?
Digital/paper deposition with RCAHMW
Have you contacted the data repository?
No – not necessary
Have the costs of archiving been fully considered?
No costs as RCAHMW not currently charging

Section 7: Data Sharing

How will you share the data and make it accessible?

Deposit in RCAHMW, with an additional copy to the regional HER
Are any restrictions on data sharing required?
No, other than our copyright should be respected.

Section 8: Responsibilities

Who will be responsible for implementing the data management plan?
Trydor partners