Wessex Archaeology

Llancaiach Fawr Manor
Treharris, Caerphilly, Gwent

Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results

Ref: 74156
February 2011

LLANCAIACH FAWR MANOR, TREHARRIS, CAERPHILLY, GWENT

CADW LISTED BUILDING 13562 – GRADE 1

Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results

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Report reference: 74156.01
Path: X:\PROJECTS\74156\Report\TT_Llancaiach_report(edLNM)

February 2011

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QUALITY ASSURANCE

SITE CODE	**74156**	**ACCESSION CODE**		**CLIENT CODE**	
PLANNING APPLICATION REF.		**NGR**	**311361 196618**		

VERSION	STATUS*	PREPARED BY	APPROVED BY	APPROVER'S SIGNATURE	DATE	FILE
1	I	KLD	KEW		25/02/11	X:\PROJECTS\74156\REPORT\TT_LLANCAIACH_REPORT(EDLNM)

* I= Internal Draft E= External Draft F= Final

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Summary

In June 2010 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Channel 4's 'Time Team' at the site of Llancaiach Fawr Manor and grounds (National Grid Reference (NGR) 311361 196618), Cadw listed building reference number 13562 – Grade 1. The present Manor House is known to be predominantly of 16th century date, and was built for the Pritchard (ap Richard) family, but is thought to occupy the site of an earlier manorial complex. Previous archaeological work on the Site, including geophysical survey and trial trenching, had located a large rectilinear ditch or 'moat' to the east of the Manor House, as well as other features such as a cobbled surface and possible buried walling. A series of earthworks, also to the east of the House, were surveyed by the RCAHMW in the 1970s, but are no longer visible; their location currently lies under a car park.

The Time Team evaluation, comprising eight trenches, found no conclusive evidence of any medieval structure (or associated activity) thought to have occupied the Site prior to the current Manor House, although one fragment of medieval roof tile was recovered in a later deposit.

Activity in the vicinity of the house was predominantly post-medieval and modern, associated with the use of the Manor as a farm and later as a private house. Examples include a cobbled yard and path, made-ground and animal burials.

The 'moat' was not evident in the trenches to the east of the Manor House, suggesting it did not continue beyond the extent previously recorded; nor was it definitely recorded by the geophysical survey. An undated ditch was located at the northern end of Trench 1, and a possible stony bank was identified a few metres to the south. These are not considered to be part of the 'moat', though it is possible that the bank may be associated with earthworks recorded in the late 1970s.

Ridge and furrow (medieval and/or post-medieval) was evident both above and below ground in the field to the east (Cae Hir). A cluster of undated features in Trench 2 (ditches and postholes) was found. A single Bronze Age pottery sherd found in the overlying, disturbed deposit indicates prehistoric activity in the vicinity; however it is more likely that these features date to the early medieval period.

The results of the Time Team evaluation do not warrant in-depth publication; it is recommended instead that a short summary is submitted for publication in *Archaeology in Wales*, for inclusion in the annual gazetteer of archaeology.

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Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned and funded by Videotext Communications Ltd, and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to the staff at Videotext, and in particular Michael Douglas (Series Editor/Director), Jane Hammond (Head of Production), Jim Mower (researcher), and Emily Woodburn (Production Co-ordinator) for their help.

The geophysical survey was completed by GSB, the fieldwork undertaken by G Atwood and John Gater, co-ordinated by Emma Wood and Jimmy Adcock.

The excavations were undertaken by Time Team's retained archaeologists, Phil Harding (Wessex Archaeology), Helen Geake, Tracey Smith, Matt Williams, Ian Powlesland, Raksha Dave and Faye Simpson assisted by local volunteers.

Wessex Archaeology was responsible for on-site archaeological recording, overseen by Jacqueline McKinley. Additional recording and finds processing was carried out by Hannah Spieler.

The archive was collated and all post-excavation assessment and analysis undertaken by Wessex Archaeology. This report was compiled by Kirsten Egging Dinwiddy, with specialist reports prepared by Nicholas Cooke (coins), Lorraine Higbee (animal bone), Lorraine Mepham (all other finds) and Sarah Wyles (palaeo-environmental). Illustrations were prepared by Kenneth Lymer. The post-excavation project was managed by Lorraine Mepham.

Wessex Archaeology would like to acknowledge the help and advice provided by Mike Anthony, local archaeologist and Buildings Officer for the Council for British Archaeology in Wales.

Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Diane Walker, General Manager of Llancaiach Fawr Manor, for allowing access to the Site.

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Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Videotext Communications Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological recording and post-excavation work on an evaluation by Channel 4's 'Time Team'. The evaluation took place on the estate of Llancaiach Fawr Manor, Nelson, Treharris, Caerphilly (hereafter the 'Site').

1.1.2 This report documents the results of the archaeological investigations undertaken by Time Team, and presents an assessment of these results.

1.2 The Site, location and geology

1.2.1 Located in the Parish of Gelligaer Community, the Site comprises an area of approximately 7.5 hectares, bounded to the north by the Gelligaer Road (B4254). The area includes the Llancaiach Fawr Manor and gardens (centred on NGR 311361 196618), and a large field (Cae Hir) to the east. The Site lies between the small towns of Trelewis and Treharris *c*. 1.5km to the west and north-west, with Nelson and Gelligaer similar distances to the south-east and east. The current land-use includes pasture, playing fields and gardens.

1.2.2 The Grade I Listed Manor (Cadw listed building number 13562) lies in the small, approximately north-south valley of the Nant Caeach waterway, which runs *c*. 50 m to the west of the Manor House. Another waterway forms the eastern boundary of the field - Cae Hir. The majority of the Site lies at a height of approximately 170m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), sloping gently from north to south.

1.2.3 The Site is located on a natural plateau in the Rhondda Valley, a liminal zone between the Brecon Beacons and the lower lying land to the south. To the west the River Taff runs north-south, and is joined by the Afon Cynon from the north-west. The topography is considered particularly favourable for long-term settlement, it being served by good land and water routes.

1.2.4 The soils comprise deep, well-drained coarse loamy and sandy soils, locally over gravel soils (GSB 2010). The underlying geology includes glacial sand and gravel drift deposits and sandstone outcrops (BGS sheet 249).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) lists a 'near-destroyed' earthwork (PRN 00961m) at Llanacaiach Fawr Manor, surveyed by the RCAHMW in 1977 and entered into the records in 1979. The entry describes the north-west angle of a much-eroded rectilinear ditched and embanked enclosure in a small field abutting the east gable of the 16th century house. The date and function are unclear, but the original entry suggests it was likely to be of

Roman origin, given that the site of the Gelligaer Roman Fort is only *c*. 2km to the north-east, and five associated practice camps are known in the vicinity. The earthworks are no longer visible and the area is now a car park.

1.3.2 Llancaiach Fawr Manor House is known to be predominantly early 16th century in date. It was built for the Pritchard (ap Richard) family for whom good historical records exist and will only be briefly touched on here. The house is mentioned in Leland's 'Itinerary' of 1537, and therefore pre-dates the Acts of Union (1535-42). It is thought that the present Manor House lies on the site of an earlier medieval manor complex. Earlier building material is included in the structure of the present building.

1.3.3 The house underwent some modifications in the early 17th century, including the alteration of some windows and the installation of a rear staircase wing. With its 1.2m thick walls, small ground floor windows, reinforced doors multiple internal staircases and provision to divide it into two, the house was patently designed with the option for defence (Newman 1995, 353-6). The Pritchard family are known to have been involved in repeated feuds with other Glamorgan noble families during the 16th century.

1.3.4 In 1539 the First Lord of Manor and Under Sherriff is recorded as David ap Richard. It is recorded that Colonel Edward Pritchard played a key part in the Civil War, and is rumoured to have entertained Charles I at Llancaiach Fawr in 1645, before changing sides (RCAHMW 1981, 115-26).

1.3.5 In 1655 the estate was divided and passed to the daughters of the Colonel, whereafter the portion including the house passed to successive heiresses to the Barons Dynefor and into the Wingfield family. The latter held the House until its sale in the 20th century (RCAHMW 1981, 115).

1.3.6 The estate became a tenanted farm shortly after Colonel Pritchard's death, and the marriages of his daughters. Samuel Evans (also known as 'Sam Llancaiach'), was the last of his family to farm the land following a long tenancy, and was a renowned cattle farmer. After his death in the early 20th century the Manor House and farm passed to the Williams family, until its sale in 1979.

1.3.7 The Manor House was initially listed in 1951, and the entry was amended in 2001 (CADW 13562 – grade 1).

1.3.8 The Manor and grounds (including Cae Hir) is owned by Caerphilly County Council, through its predecessor Rhymney district council. It is now a community facility and a tourist attraction - a 'museum of living history'.

1.4 Previous archaeological work

1.4.1 Previous archaeological works include the RCAHMW survey of earthworks to the east of the Manor House in 1977 (detailed above).

1.4.2 Archaeological investigations associated with the construction of a new visitor centre in 1989 led to the discovery of a large ditch. This rectilinear, returning ditch ('moat', **Figure 1**) lay to the east of the House, and was on a slightly different alignment. It also lay to the south of the location of the earthworks survey by the RCAHMW. Aerial photographs taken in 1947 and 1948 (not shown) clearly show the location of the large ditch, the earlier one

particularly so. The ditch or 'moat' does not appear to have continued into the adjacent field. There is no evidence in any of the photographs of any earthworks that may be related to those described above. It may be that slight errors in either or both surveys (though there is no evidence to support this) led to the features being described as separate entities, when they may have been part of the same one.

1.4.3 A trial trench was located to the south of the House, probably as part of the same investigations (**Figure 1**). A cobbled surface was identified here and described as being related to garden features.

1.4.4 In the same year a geophysical survey was commissioned in order to assess the extent of the moat. This covered three areas within the grounds of the Manor House (**Figure 1**; Gater and Gaffney 1989). The results were somewhat unclear, especially when compared to known archaeological deposits in the adjacent trial trench. The results suggested the presence of buried walling and other features that may be associated with a garden or building. This was subsequently interpreted as a chambered building approximately 30m x 10m, with flanking ditches to the north and west (not shown). The alignment of this did not correspond to that of the 'moat' (Anthony 2009, 2).

1.4.5 In 2008 during the Council for British Archaeology's 'National Archaeology Week' a series of test pits were excavated in Cae Hir. The aim was to evaluate the extent of the archaeological remains. Poorly defined masonry walls were found, but 'ploughing matches' in the post-war years had substantially damaged them. Artefacts were predominantly post-medieval. However, metal detectorist finds (collected over a number of years) included a number of 14th century objects including buckles and coins. This revelation led to the suggestion of the existence of a late medieval forerunner to the present Manor (Antony 2009, 2).

1.4.6 In 2009 a comprehensive resistivity survey was undertaken across Cae Hir by Archaeological Perspectives and Analysis Consultancy (Phillips 2009; not shown on **Figure 1**). The interpretation of the results included a number of structures both in the northern and southern areas of the field. They also determined that the field was dominated by a large natural sandstone plateau.

1.4.7 At the same time a small investigation comprising four trial trenches was carried out, targeted on some of the 'structures' identified in the northern end of the field (**Figure 2**). The results were inconclusive, though three parallel rows of stone rubble were noted, running east to west for at least 50m. A posthole was found in the central row. This was interpreted as a possible defensive outer wall, though more work was required. Artefacts were few, and included some lime render and a piece of leather, a sample of which is currently undergoing radiocarbon dating (Phillips 2009; Anthony 2009, 2).

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1.1 A project design for the work was compiled (Videotext Communications 2010), providing full details of the research aims and methods. A brief summary is provided here.

2.1.2 The aim of the project was to:

- Characterise the archaeological resource over key areas of the Site
- Extend the understanding of the medieval Site
- Contribute to the broader date sequence of the Site

2.1.3 The project aims and objectives were devised to contribute, in a broad sense, to the Archaeological Research Framework for the region (Aldhouse-Green *et al.* 2003).

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Geophysical Survey

3.1.1 Prior to the excavation of evaluation trenches, a geophysical survey was carried out across the Site using a combination of resistance and magnetic survey. The survey grid was tied in to the Ordnance Survey grid using a Trimble real time differential GPS system.

3.2 Evaluation Trenches

3.2.1 Eight trenches of varying sizes were excavated, their locations determined in order to address specific research objectives and to investigate and clarify geophysical anomalies (**Figure 1**).

3.2.2 The trenches were opened using a combination of machine and hand excavation. All machine trenches were excavated under constant archaeological supervision and ceased at the identification of significant archaeological remains or at natural geology, whichever was encountered first. All trenches were then cleaned by hand and archaeological deposits investigated.

3.2.3 At various stages during excavation the deposits were scanned by a metal detector and signals marked in order to facilitate investigation. The excavated up-cast was scanned by metal detector.

3.2.4 All archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* record sheets with a unique numbering system for individual contexts. Trenches were located using a Trimble Real Time Differential GPS survey system. All archaeological features and deposits were planned at a scale of 1:20 with sections drawn at 1:10. All principal strata and features were related to the Ordnance Survey datum.

3.2.5 A full photographic record of the investigations and individual features was maintained utilising digital images. The photographic record illustrates both the detail and general context of the archaeology revealed and the Site as a whole.

3.2.6 At the completion of the work, all trenches were reinstated using the excavated soil.

3.2.7 The work was carried out on the 22nd – 25th June 2010. The archive and all artefacts were transported to the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury where they were processed and assessed for this report.

3.3 Copyright

3.3.1 This report may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which we are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferrable by Wessex Archaeology. You are reminded that you remain bound by the conditions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Details of individual excavated contexts and features, the full geophysical report (GSB 2010) and details of the artefactual and palaeo-environmental assessments are retained in the archive. Detailed trench summaries are in **Appendix 1**, to be consulted in conjunction with the evaluation results section.

4.2 Geophysical survey results

4.2.1 Geophysical survey was carried out over an area of approximately 2.7 hectares within the gardens and fields surrounding the Manor House (**Figures 1 and 2**). A combination of magnetometry (fluxgate gradiometer) and ground penetrating radar (GPR) was employed.

4.2.2 The magnetic dataset from the Cae Hir produced somewhat inconclusive results. No evidence was found for features related to the manorial structures, or to the previously recorded earthworks. The results were instead dominated by anomalies that relate to ridge and furrow, and a possible former tributary of the Nant Caeach waterway. Though no plan was evident, some of the weaker trends and responses were found to be associated with activity in the form of ditches and pits. The dataset from the area to the south of the Manor House detected only a deposit of modern ferrous debris.

4.2.3 GPR surveys were carried out in six areas, producing very little evidence of archaeological activity. However, this may be a result of the unsuitability of the sub-surface conditions for this type of investigation, rather than a true lack. The underlying geology was such that it produced particularly strong anomalies, which could readily hide the presence of archaeological features. One feature, a ditch, was evident in the GPR data, but this was not distinct from the intense geological responses, and was only discerned following excavation.

4.2.4 Conditions for the survey were good, with survey areas comprising predominantly pasture, playing fields or car park. In Area 6, a small cleared area of undergrowth, some noise was introduced into the GPR data owing to the uneven surface.

Area 1

Gradiometer

4.2.5 A plan drawn by the RCAHMW of Llancaiach Fawr Manor shows a 'moat' turning east into Cae Hir field (Videotext Communications 2010, fig. 5), suggesting that this perhaps formed part of an enclosure. It was hoped that a magnetic survey would locate the moat ditch; however, the data are somewhat inconclusive on this matter, as no anomalies were detected which can be definitely associated with the ditch.

4.2.6 Anomalies were ditch-like in form and along with negative trends were investigated by an excavation trench. Ditches were located which proved to be prehistoric in date and a number of post holes were also discovered, suggesting possible occupation.

4.2.7 A south-west – north-east oriented anomaly was shown by excavation (Trench 1) to be a large ditch. Other anomalies within this area may have a similar origin.

4.2.8 Sinuous positive and negative responses follow an approximate northwest – southeast direction. It is likely that these responses are associated with the water course to the east of the field.

4.2.9 Throughout the dataset, ploughing trends can be seen on an east-west alignment, whereas in the southern section of the data a number of anomalies can be seen that have been given the category of Uncertain. These are likely to reflect changes in the soils due to the topography, although an archaeological origin cannot be dismissed.

4.2.10 Ferrous responses along the eastern and western extents of the survey area are associated with metal fencing, whilst smaller scale anomalies are characteristic of small pieces of iron debris in the topsoil and are commonly assigned a modern origin.

Ground penetrating radar

4.2.11 Having initially surveyed Areas 2 – 5 with somewhat inconclusive results, but a strong suspicion that the anomalies were largely derived of a combination of relatively modern and geological features, this area was positioned to test the natural responses. The survey lay next to Trench 1, which clearly showed the local geological formation and had very few archaeological features within it aside from a broad ditch, a slight bank and a stone-packed posthole.

4.2.12 The results clearly show the continuation of the ditch (1) which is known to cut through the geology. It is assumed therefore that the surrounding anomalies are geological, and account for the strong mass of reflections recorded in the radargrams. The trend through the centre of the ditch appears to be simply an effect of the stone backfill, as no drains or such like were found during excavation. It seems that even the relatively well defined northern linear anomalies (2) are natural effects of the strata and jointing within the geology, as they are not aligned with the ridge and furrow seen in the magnetic data, and no linear features were found to continue into the trench on this orientation.

4.2.13 There is no clear evidence of the earthwork shown on Ordnance Survey mapping of the site, other than a vague correlation with the edge of the higher amplitude responses in the 1.5m – 2.0m summary time-slice. Given that it does not show up higher in the section, this is assumed to be little more than coincidence.

4.2.14 The results from this block highlighted that it was obviously going to be difficult to interpret anything confidently as archaeological, or otherwise, given the strength of the natural anomalies and linear patterns they create.

Area 2

Ground penetrating radar

4.2.15 Drains run along the extreme northern and southern limits of the survey area and the majority of variation within the top metre appears to be modern material associated with the surfacing of the car park. The responses at depth are probably born of the underlying geology rather than any archaeological structures, given the continuing lack of form, apart from a short linear, which is not thought to be of significance. The only suggestion in the time-slices or the radargrams of the previously recorded earthwork is a very small zone of lower amplitude response, which is in line with the feature's mapped position. However, the fact that it is only in the very shallowest slices, in a resurfaced car park, probably means that this too is mere coincidence.

Area 3

Ground penetrating radar

4.2.16 At least one pipe/drain runs through this area (6), with other potential service features also highlighted, and a strong circular anomaly around an access cover. There seem to have been a few interventions in this area judging by the number of isolated modern-type anomalies seen in the radargrams. A zone of increased disturbance in the shallow slices is difficult to define but it seems to match up with a similar area of disturbance in Area 4, but in that case the anomalies extend far deeper. There is nothing here that is obviously associated with the previously mapped earthworks.

Area 4

Ground penetrating radar

4.2.17 Again, this survey area was positioned to look for evidence of the previously recorded earthwork. A low amplitude band (9) could be considered consistent with a broad ditch, but the alignment is not right and there are no defined edges to the zone within the radargrams. In fact, this may simply be a relatively shallow effect of the car-park surfacing or clayey/wetter deposits just below the surface, which are attenuating the signal.

4.2.18 At least three services (10) appear to run through the survey area, surrounded by responses most likely resulting from material laid to form the car park. Beneath these, linear bands look similar to the geological anomalies recorded elsewhere. A zone of high amplitude anomalies extend to depth and it is possible that they could be of anthropogenic origins.

However, the same *caveat* as before holds true, that these reflections could simply be a geological feature.

Area 5

Ground penetrating radar

4.2.19 Anomalies recorded across this area have predominantly been categorised as *Uncertain* as the majority of responses appear to stem from a relatively shallow buried surface, which dips down very gradually from east to west. Given that this grassed area is adjacent to a set of gates, it is likely that this is the surface of an old access track; beneath this, the anomalies are almost certainly natural responses. Two service routes run very close to each other at the east end.

Area 6

Ground penetrating radar

4.2.20 This survey area intended to look for a possible entrance drive to the manor house. Unfortunately the spread of anomalies suggested little more than variation in the geology which appeared to be very shallow; this interpretation was confirmed upon excavation.

Area 7

Gradiometer

4.2.21 This area was surveyed in the hope of finding any anomalies associated with the Manor House. The results were disappointing as the majority of responses are of a ferrous, modern nature – the area is used as a playing field. A single negative trend and some anomalies that have been categorised as Uncertain; these again are likely to be of a modern date.

Conclusions

4.2.22 In the primary search area, to the east of Llancaiach Fawr, the magnetic survey produced a dataset seemingly dominated by agricultural and natural (fluvial) responses; consistent east-west ploughing / ridge and furrow trends, and anomalies from what looks like a former stream course. Some of the weaker trends and anomalies were found to be part of a complex of prehistoric features indicating ditches, post-holes and pits. There was no evidence to suggest the existence of any features pertaining to the previously mapped earthworks.

4.2.23 A second, much smaller, magnetic survey area south of the current manor house revealed nothing more than modern ferrous debris.

4.2.24 Radar surveys were carried out in six areas with very little clear evidence of archaeological features. This, however, is not to say that they do not exist, simply that the sub-surface conditions were not conducive to making clear interpretations. This ambiguity arises from the relatively shallow and bedded/jointed geology which produced very strong anomalies that could easily mask, or at least 'cloud', the presence of any archaeological features. A continuation of the ditch in Area 1 was noted in the GPR data, but it would have been difficult to discern from the intense geological responses, in the raw radargrams, without the excavation evidence. The geology also

produced linear anomalies within the time-slices that could easily be misinterpreted as potential archaeological features and, as such, all interpretations, either way, remain cautious.

4.3 Evaluation trenches

Introduction

4.3.1 Eight trenches were excavated (**Figure 1**). Two were opened in Cae Hir, the field to the east. Two were located in the gardens to the north of the Manor House, and four in the grounds to the south.

4.3.2 The trenches in Cae Hir (Trenches 1 and 2) were placed in order to expand upon earlier investigations to allow better understanding of the archaeological findings at the house, to assist future management decisions regarding the land. Trenches 3 to 8 were targeted as a result of detailed topographical and geophysical survey, landscape analysis and on-site discussion with the relevant archaeologists. In particular, these trenches were focused on potential activity related to the medieval phase of the site.

4.3.3 Descriptions of the various deposits and features are presented in the Trench summaries (**Appendix 1**).

4.3.4 In six trenches the overlying topsoil and (where extant) subsoils were removed by machine. The other two trenches (Trenches 4 and 5) were excavated entirely by hand. Topsoil depths varied between 0.14m and 0.35m across the Site, with the shallowest examples to the north and south of the manor house. Subsoil was only observed in Trenches 1 and 2 (Cae Hir) where depths were generally 0.20 to 0.25m. Occasional greater depths (up to 0.35m) are thought to be associated with ridge and furrow. Two subsoils, one ploughed and one unploughed, were identified in Trench 2.

4.3.5 The natural drift geology was quite mixed and patchy across the Site. Colours included predominantly orange or yellowish browns, and textures varied from clayey to sandy silts and gravels. Inclusions of small and medium sub-angular stones were common, though distribution of various concentrations and/or sizes was often patchy. The sandstone bedrock (angled and 'platy') was occasionally exposed.

Trench 1 (Figure 3)

4.3.6 Trench 1 was positioned in order to detect any continuation of the putative 'moat'.

4.3.7 Archaeological features within Trench 1 comprised two ditches, a possible bank and a post-hole. A further feature (112) was a periglacial anomaly.

4.3.8 The most convincing ditch (104) was on a south-west/north-east alignment, at the northern end of the trench. It contained five fills (**Figure 5, Plate 3**), including a rocky tertiary fill derived from subsoil and surrounding deposits (including a possible bank to the south). Initial silting including small quantities of possible bank material was followed by successive similar fills, with varying proportions of possible eroded or collapsed bank material.

4.3.9 The second ditch (107) was less convincing, with more moderately sloping sides and an east-west alignment. The single fill (108) was very similar to

the topsoil (100 and 103). It is possible that this feature represents the remnant of a plough furrow, although rather substantial for such an interpretation.

4.3.10 A spread of cobbles and stones (102), aligned east-west across the middle of the trench, may represent a former bank (**Figure 5, Plate 2**). The deposit, thickest along the centre, lay over subsoil 113, implying a fairly late, possibly post-medieval date. Another possible interpretation could be a collection of rocks and stones from field clearance, particularly as the deposit follows the ridge and furrow alignment. The location of a bank here may be relevant, as it lies to the east of the location of the now destroyed earthworks recorded in the 1970s (see above, **1.3.1**; but see also **1.4.2**).

4.3.11 A sub-circular posthole (110) with extant post-packing and remnant of a post-pipe was located below the bank material (102), cutting the subsoil (113). Such a feature might be a marker for the bank, or similar. However the posthole was fairly substantial (0.82m x 0.72m, 0.24m remaining depth) and may have formed part of a structure.

Trench 2 (Figure 4)

4.3.12 Trench 2 was positioned in order to assess the possible archaeological anomalies detected by the magnetometry survey.

4.3.13 Archaeological features within Trench 2 comprised four ditches, three postholes and a possible stakehole (**Figure 5, Plates 4 & 5**). All features remain undated. A single sherd of Bronze Age pottery was recovered, although this was residual in a later disturbed deposit (206). Other finds included a number of silver coins, a medieval token or counter, a 16th/17th century thimble, fired clay and sherds of post-medieval pottery. All of these were recovered from the topsoil or subsoil (200 or 201), i.e. not from an archaeological context.

4.3.14 Ditch (210) was aligned approximately north-south, and contained two fills, comprising initial silting and a subsequent stony (deliberate?) upper fill, possibly derived from field clearance.

4.3.15 Ditches (212), (214) and (216) were aligned approximately east-west, parallel to each other. The fill of (212) appears to have been a deliberate and rapid event, whereas the other two were allowed to fill slowly via natural silting. Ditch (214) is thought to have continued eastwards as (226). Ditch (216) was probably the earliest of all four ditches.

4.3.16 As the sections provided conflicting and unclear relationships – the fills being virtually identical - it is possible that ditches (210) and (214) were contemporaneous, forming part of a field system.

4.3.17 Posthole (218) was fairly small, and contained only one fill, which had entered the hole left by post removal. Posthole (223) contained two fills, a primary deposit (collapse not evident in section), and silting following post removal. Posthole (225) contained the remains of post-packing, which had partially preserved the original post-pipe. The post had been removed and the hole infilled with a fairly silty deposit. Ditch (210) post-dated this posthole, truncating the western side.

4.3.18 Possible stakehole (207) (not shown on **Figure 4**) was located within the stony base of ditch (212). It is quite possible that this was actually a stone socket, produced when a large stone, having pressed into the base of the ditch, had loosened and left a hollow i.e. 'stone pull'.

4.3.19 It is likely that these features represent agricultural activity, and possible settlement may be inferred from the presence of postholes. However the lack of evidence and dating precludes any solid interpretation.

Trench 3 (Figure 6)

4.3.20 Trench 3 was placed to investigate an area of paving or made-ground identified in this location during geophysical investigation in 1989 (Gater and Gaffney, 4). This was exposed and recorded as (303) (**Figure 6, Plate 6**).

4.3.21 The Llancaiach Tithe map of 1841 and OS maps from 1875-7 to 1920 (not illustrated) clearly show a minor road or track leading to, and widening into an area including outbuildings, in which Trench 3 was located. The area was used as a yard at least during this period. The track and yard appears to have been altered by 1961, when the OS map depicts the introduction of a route to the northern entrance to the Manor House, and a narrowing of the route into a footpath past the western side of the grounds.

Trench 4

4.3.22 Trench 4 was located to the south of the Manor House, placed to detect any features that may be associated with the Manor complex, or a predecessor.

4.3.23 This small, hand dug test pit (**Back cover, top left**) revealed a series of compact made-ground deposits, possibly levelling and surfaces (**Figure 8, Plate 8**). These were probably associated with the use of the current manor as farm during the post-medieval period.

Trench 5

4.3.24 Trench 5 was located to the south of the Manor House, adjacent to an extant path (**Figure 8, Plate 9; Back cover, bottom left**). It was positioned to detect any features that may be related to the Manor complex, or earlier structure, e.g. a gatehouse.

4.3.25 This hand dug trench contained a compact stony surface (502), overlying red and black cinder deposits (503), which in turn overlay a stone-rubble deposit (504) (**Figure 8, Plate 10**). Artefacts were substantially post-medieval in date, though a fragment of medieval roof tile was also recovered.

4.3.26 It is likely that these deposits represent a post-medieval yard surface and its make-up/levelling deposits, associated with the use of the present Manor as a farm.

4.3.27 Trial trenching *c*. 1989 found a cobbled surface just to the north of Trench 5. Geophysical survey in the same area found possible elements of structure or landscape e.g. walls or paths (Gater and Gaffney 1989, 4).

Trench 6 (Figure 7)

4.3.28 Trench 6 was placed to the north of the current Manor House garden, but within the original garden. It was located, primarily, to detect any features that may have been related to the earlier manor complex.

4.3.29 Several features were found in this trench. Two sub-rectangular cut features (604 and 606) were animal graves, each containing the articulated remains of cattle (one in each). Other artefacts within the backfill imply a post-medieval date.

4.3.30 A north-south aligned wall foundation (610) and a lead pipe running parallel to it were most likely to have been associated with garden features.

4.3.31 A possible clinker path or surface (602) lay between a buried garden soil (602) and the topsoil (600). The garden soil contained green bottle glass of 17th to 18th century date.

Trench 7

4.3.32 Trench 7 was located to the north of the Manor House, within the rear gardens. It was positioned to detect any features that may be related to the earlier medieval manor complex.

4.3.33 The machine-excavated trench revealed a deposit of mixed cinder and re-deposited natural with inclusions of modern textile and plastic (701). This overlay a layer of unremarkable soil (702), which was directly on top of natural geology (703) (**Figure 8, Plate 11**; note that the stony outcrop in the centre of the trench is the natural geology, and is not structural).

4.3.34 According to an OS map (1920) and Aerial Photograph (1947), at some point between 1920 and 1947 a path or track running from the rear entrance of the manor house towards the north-west corner of the garden, and a rectangular structure (outbuilding?) to the west of the path had been constructed. Both had been removed sometime between 1985 and 1993 (OS maps, not shown).

4.3.35 Deposit (701) probably comprised the remnants of the structure or path following garden alterations. Deposit (702) is likely to have been a garden soil buried for some time below the path or structure.

4.3.36 No artefacts or archaeological remains were found in this trench.

Trench 8

4.3.37 Trench 8 was positioned in order to detect any archaeological remains potentially associated with the Manor or its predecessor.

4.3.38 Cartographic evidence (not shown) depicts a path and footbridge a few metres to the west of Trench 8. Branching from a footpath that leads to the Manor site, the footbridge runs to the north-west, across the Nant Caeach and towards a spring-well. It appears that the woodland to the south-east of the footpath (i.e. Trench 8 location) was substantially cleared by the turn of the 20th century.

4.3.39 Topsoil 800 directly overlay the natural geology (801). No artefacts, archaeological features or deposits were found in this trench (**Figure 8, Plate 12**).

5 FINDS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Finds were recovered from five of the eight trenches excavated (no finds were recovered from Trenches 4, 7 or 8), but in small quantities only. The assemblage is almost entirely of post-medieval date, with a few medieval items, and one prehistoric find. Of most interest amongst this small assemblage is a group of silver coins, all found during metal detecting in Trench 2, although not, from their diverse dates, constituting a hoard.

5.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and totals by material type and by trench are presented in **Table 1**. Following quantification, all finds have been at least visually scanned, in order to ascertain their nature, probable date range, and condition. Spot dates have been recorded for datable material (pottery, vessel glass). This information provides the basis for an assessment of the potential of the finds assemblage to contribute to an understanding of the Site, with particular reference to the occupation of the early post-medieval Manor House, and any medieval predecessor.

5.2 Pottery

5.2.1 With the exception of one prehistoric sherd, the pottery is post-medieval in date. The prehistoric sherd, which came from subsoil context (206), is in a coarse, grog-tempered fabric; it is undiagnostic, but on fabric grounds can be broadly dated as Bronze Age, although the ceramic tradition cannot be determined.

5.2.2 The post-medieval sherds include coarse red earthenwares, tinglazed earthenware, Satffordshire- or Bristol-type slipware, and later factory-produced wares. The potential date range runs from the 18th century to the present day.

5.3 Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

5.3.1 Four pieces of CBM were recovered, comprising fragments of medieval roof tile (stony surface 502), post-medieval roof tile (glazed, in North Devon gravel-tempered ware; possible made ground 302), post-medieval glazed floor tile (cinder deposits 503), and post-medieval brick (animal grave backfill 605).

5.4 Glass

5.4.1 One piece of green bottle glass (garden soil layer 602) derives from the tapering neck of a wine bottle of later 17th or early 18th form (‘onion’ or ‘mallet’ type), and two very small fragments of window glass (topsoil layer 103) are of broad post-medieval date (pre-modern).

5.4.2 The remaining glass (all vessel) is modern, and includes clear bottle/jar fragments, and part of a blue decorative vessel, perhaps a Vauxhall light holder or similar.

5.5 Metalwork

Coins

5.5.1 Seven coins and a single token/counter were recovered. One is an 1862 penny, recovered from topsoil in Trench 1. The remaining six coins and the token/counter were recovered from metal detecting of the spoil from Trench 2, and initially were interpreted as being a disturbed hoard. The six coins from are all hammered silver coins of the medieval or Tudor periods, whilst the seventh item is a copper alloy token/counter, probably of late medieval date (**Table 2**). In general the condition of the coins is poor, with many of the silver coins both fragmentary and also corroded, whilst the token/counter is also badly worn and corroded.

5.5.2 Five of the six hammered silver coins are medieval pennies (Objects 23, 36, 39, 40, 41). None of these could be identified to ruler, although all are 'long cross' pennies struck from the late 13th century onwards. A partial inscription on Object 23, struck in Bury St Edmunds, indicates that it is likely to have been struck either by Edward I or Edward II. The sixth silver coin (Object 22) is a fragment of a six pence piece struck for Elizabeth I in AD 1565.

5.5.3 The single copper alloy token/counter probably dates to the late medieval period. Although no exact parallels are shown in the standard literature, this is likely to belong to a group of crudely fashioned reckoning counters of the 13th to 15th centuries. These were used in accounting and calculations, often in conjunction with a checkerboard, but may also have circulated as small change.

5.5.4 The small assemblage from the site suggests coin use throughout the medieval period and into the early post-medieval period. All of the coins recovered are small denomination issues, and most are both heavily worn and damaged. Whilst the possibility that some of this assemblage derive from a scattered hoard cannot be discounted entirely, given the condition of the coins, and the date range they span, this is considered unlikely. The single copper alloy token/counter is a relatively unusual type, but in keeping with the site.

Copper alloy

5.5.5 The three copper alloy objects comprise two thimbles and a buckle. All are post-medieval. The thimbles are both of flat-topped, stamped type; the smaller of the two (Trench 2 topsoil) is very worn and the pits have penetrated the wall. The larger and better preserved example (found unstratified) has drilled pits in a spiral from base to crown, and over the top. There may be a maker's mark at the base of the spiral (which would imply that this is an import from Nuremberg, a major centre of thimble manufacture in the early post-medieval period), but the object is too worn to determine. Both thimbles are of 16th or 17th century date (e.g. Egan 2005, no. 623).

5.5.6 The buckle is a plain, asymmetric double-looped form, of 15th to 17th century date (Whitehead 1996, 89-93); this was an unstrayified find.

Iron

5.5.7 The ironwork consists largely of nails (22 examples). Only one other object is identifiable: a slotted, discoidal weight, stamped CWT (hundredweight). As

the weight weighs 680g (1lb 8oz), it presumably formed part of something larger, but can be dated as modern.

5.5.8 Other objects comprise miscellaneous strip and rod fragments, with one short length of hollow tube or pipe; none are datable.

5.6 Animal Bone

5.6.1 Eighty-four fragments (or 267g) of animal bone were recovered from three separate contexts. Bone preservation is quite poor, and most fragments are abraded or have flaky and corroded cortical surfaces. A fragmented sheep/goat tooth was recovered from topsoil (103). All of the bone fragments from animal graves (604) and (606) belong to cattle; these include a fragmented skull, metatarsal, several phalanges, and small pieces of sacrum, mandible and vertebra.

5.7 Other Finds

5.7.1 Other finds comprise very small quantities of clay tobacco pipe (stem and bowl fragment); fired clay (small, abraded and undiagnostic fragment); stone (possible tile, burnt or degraded chalk); ironworking slag; and leather (small strip fragments). Apart from the clay pipe (post-medieval), none of these finds are closely datable.

5.8 Potential and further recommendations

5.8.1 This is a very small assemblage, dating largely to the later post-medieval period, and probably relating to the use of the property as a farmhouse. Very few artefacts could be identified which could be linked to the occupation of the early post-medieval Manor House (coins, bottle glass, thimbles, buckle), and only one medieval artefact (roof tile fragment) was found.

5.8.2 The finds have been recorded to an appropriate archive level, and no further work is proposed.

6 PALAEO-ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMARY

6.1 Introduction

Environmental samples taken

6.1.1 Seven bulk samples were taken from a series of undated ditches and postholes in Trench 1 and 2 and were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoals (see **Table 3**).

6.1.2 Bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. Flots were scanned under a x10 – x40 stereo-binocular microscope and the presence of charred remains quantified (**Table 4**) to record the preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997).

6.1.3 The flots varied in size with low to high numbers of roots and modern seeds that are indicative of stratigraphic movement and the possibility of

contamination by later intrusive elements. There were also a few coal fragments within ditch (214). Charred material was poorly preserved.

6.2 Charred Plant Remains

6.2.1 Very few charred plant remains were recovered from the samples. These included a few indeterminate grain fragments and seeds of oat/brome grass (*Avena/Bromus* sp.) and ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) from ditch (104) in Trench 1 and a few hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) shell fragments from posthole (218) in Trench 2. These small plant assemblages provide no indication of the potential date of these features.

6.3 Wood Charcoal

6.3.1 Wood charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in **Table 4**. Wood charcoal fragments >4 mm were retrieved in a large quantity from the post pipe within posthole (216). The charcoal appeared to generally be mature wood fragments and may have derived from a burnt post.

6.4 Potential and further recommendations

6.4.1 There is no potential for any further analysis of the charred plant remains due to the paucity of the charred remains recovered. No further work is proposed.

6.4.2 The analysis of the wood charcoal from posthole (216) has the potential to provide limited information on the species present in the local woodland resource and any management and selection processes employed. No further work is proposed.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Bronze Age

7.1.1 The sherd of Bronze Age pottery was found in a disturbed deposit overlying a cluster of otherwise undated ditches and postholes in Trench 2. It is possible that these features represent prehistoric agricultural, and perhaps settlement activity. Prehistoric field boundaries are frequently found to contain very few artefacts. However, the features could equally be of early medieval date (see below).

7.2 Medieval

7.2.1 A fragment of roof tile found in the post-medieval yard surface in Trench 5 may suggest medieval activity close to the Manor. It may be associated with the predecessor of the current Manor House, although it is not possible to say for certain. The recovery of five medieval silver coins and a late medieval token also support the idea of a medieval predecessor to the Manor, although the absence of any other artefacts of this date would seem surprising; although the region was largely aceramic prior to the Norman conquest, pottery was certainly used from at least the 12th century (Papazian 1990).

7.2.2 The ridge and furrow evident in Cae Hir may have originated in the medieval period, though there is no evidence to support this.

7.3 Post-medieval and modern landscape

7.3.1 Most of the archaeological evidence from these investigations comprised post-medieval and modern artefacts and features. The post-medieval activity was predominantly associated with the use of the Manor and Cae Hir as a farm, comprising various yard and path surfaces, made-ground and ridge and furrow (with possible stone clearance). Modern activity, i.e. landscaping, was linked to the use of the Manor as a private house and then a community centre.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1.1 Detailed publication of the results of the Time Team evaluation is not warranted, but it is proposed that a very brief summary is submitted to *Archaeology in Wales* for publication in the annual gazetteer of archaeology in the county.

8.1.2 An online OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations) entry will be created for this evaluation and its findings and submitted to the website.

9 ARCHIVE

9.1.1 The project archive was prepared in accordance with the guidelines outlined in Appendix 3 of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and in accordance with the *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage* (UKIC 1990).

9.1.2 The excavated material and archive, including plans, photographs and written records, are currently held at the Wessex Archaeology offices under the project code 74156. The archive will be deposited with the landowner, Diane Walker, at Llancaiach Fawr Manor.

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Table 1: Finds totals by material type and by trench (number / weight in grammes)

Material	Tr 1	Tr 2	Tr 3	Tr 5	Tr 6	unstrat.	Total
Pottery	7/31	2/10	5/35	6/21	1/9	-	**21/106**
Prehistoric	-	*1/8*	-	-	-	-	***1/8***
Post-Medieval	*7/31*	*1/2*	*5/35*	*6/21*	*1/9*	-	***20/98***
Ceramic Building Material	-	-	1/33	2/90	1/371	-	**4/494**
Clay Pipe	-	-	1/2	1/1	-	-	**2/3**
Fired Clay	-	1/3	-	-	-	-	**1/3**
Stone	2/28	-	-	-	1/81	-	**3/109**
Glass	3/5	-	1/3	7/28	1/10	-	**12/46**
Slag	6/73	-		1/7	-	-	**7/80**
Metalwork (no. objects)	20	11	-	11	1	2	**45**
Coins	1	7	-	-	-	-	**8**
Copper Alloy	-	1	-	-	-	2	**3**
Iron	19	3	-	11	1	-	**34**
Leather	-	-	-	2/9	-	-	**2/9**
Animal Bone	1/3	-	-	-	83/264	-	**84/267**

Table 2: Coins and tokens from Llancaiach Fawr

Obj No	*Context*	*Metal*	*Denomination*	*Diameter*	*Weight*	*Issuer*	*Description*	*Mint*	*Issue Date*	*References*
22	200	Silver	Six Pence	22	0.84g	Elizabeth I	O: Illegible R: Shield on a long cross fourchee dividing the legend. 1565 above. POS (UI DEU ADIUTOREM) MEU Badly damaged coin - less than half of flan. Some edge damage	London	AD 1565	North, 1975, 1997
23	200	Silver	Penny	16	0.73g	Unknown	O: Bust facing. EDW- R: Long cross with three pellets in each corner(VILLA SEDM) V NDI Penny of one of the Edwards. Too corroded to be certain	Unknown	Medieval	-
24	200	Cu Alloy	Token/Counter	16	0.56g	Unknown	O: Short cross within a ring. R: Short cross within a ring Both obverse and reverse struck off centre to the flan. This token or counter has no direct parallel in Mitchener, but it is likely to date to the 13th to 15th centuries.	Unknown	Medieval	-
36	200	Silver	Penny	18	0.81g	Unknown	O: Facing bust. -ANGLDNSH- R: long cross with 3 pellets in each quadrant. CIVITAS – Halved long cross penny.	Unknown	Medieval	-
39	200	Silver	Penny	13	0.33g	Unknown	O: Bust facing R: Long cross fourche with central quatrefoil, three pellets in each quadrant Extremely worn silver long cross penny.	Unknown	Medieval	-
40	200	Silver	Penny	15	0.31g	Unknown	O: Illegible R: Long cross with three pellets in each quadrant Badly damaged and worn long cross penny	Unknown	Medieval	-
41	200	Silver	Penny	18	0.71g	Unknown	O: Facing bust -ANGLDN- R: Long cross with three pellets in each quadrant (CIVI) TAS LON (DON) Possibly a penny of Edward I, but too badly damaged to be certain. Only just over half of the flan present.	London	Medieval	-

Table 3: Sample provenance summary

Trench	***No of samples***	***Volume (litres)***	***Feature types***
Trench 1	1	18	Ditch
Trench 2	6	76.75	Postholes, ditches
Totals	***7***	***94.75***	

Table 4: Assessment of charred plant remains and charcoal

Samples				***Flot***								
Feature	**Context**	**Sample**	**Vol. Ltrs**	**Flot (ml)**	**% roots**	**Charred Plant Remains**				**Charcoal >4/2mm**	**Other**	**Analysis**
						Grain	**Chaff**	**Other**	**Comments**			
Trench 1												
Ditch												
104	116	100	18	30	40	C	-	C	Indet. grain *frags, Avena/Bromus, Plantago*	4/3 ml	-	-
Trench 2												
Postholes												
207	208	101	0.75	30	5	-	-	-	-	5/8 ml	-	-
223	222	102	10	40	25	-	-	-	-	8/12 ml	-	-
218	217	103	1	15	10	-	-	C	*Corylus avellana* shell frags	5/3 ml	-	-
225	219	106	9	500	5	-	-	-	-	175/150 ml	-	?C
Ditches												
214	213	104	26	40	50	-	-	-	-	5/3 ml	coal	-
216	215	105	30	30	65	-	-	-	-	1/2 ml	-	-

Key:A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5; Analysis: ?C = possibly consider charcoal analysis

APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

TRENCH 1			**Type:**	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 26.5 x 3.5m		**Max. depth:** 1.12m	**Ground level:** 170.22 - 168.58m aOD	
Context	**Description**			**Depth (m)**
100	*Topsoil*	Ploughsoil. Greyish-brown, slightly clayey silt loam with rare small stones, modern pottery, slag and post-medieval glass.		0 – 0.25
101	*Fill*	Mid orange-brown silty clay with common small-medium sized sub-rounded and sub-angular stones (80-100mm; 150-200mm) and small sub-rounded pebbles (20-30mm). Uppermost fill of ditch (104), immediately below topsoil. Infiltrated with subsoil (ploughing?). 3.20m wide, 0.45m deep.		0.25 – 0.7
102	*?Bank*	Mid greyish-brown, slightly clayey silt loam with common medium and small sub-rounded and rounded cobbles *(c.* 50-250mm), moderately well-sorted. Bank of stones apparently deposited on top of subsoil (113), and partly into it. Deepest and most dense along centre line, tapering to N & S. ?Result of stone clearance? Post-medieval. *Approx.* 5.9m x min 3.4m excavated width.		0.25m deep.
103	*Topsoil*	Equivalent to topsoil (100); issued for metal detector survey. Pot (post-medieval), glass (window - pre-modern post-medieval), animal bone, numerous iron objects including nails, a weight, a coin and strips.		
104	***Ditch cut***	**'V' profiled linear ditch on SW-NE alignment, at N end of trench. Steep, straight sides and acutely concave base. 2.4m wide, Undated. Filled with (101), (116-8) & (120).**		**1.01m deep.**
105	*Natural*	Orange-brown, loose sandy silts with very frequent small-medium and occasional large sub-rounded and sub-angular sandstone fragments. Patchy distribution of large stones, with underlying even spread of smaller stones. Top 0.1m very weathered and disturbed by roots. Bedrock close to surface (0.1m).		
106	*Post-packing*	Large angular sandstone slabs, pitched and sitting within fill 114. 0.6m diameter, (115) is within the stones. Disturbed by plough. Fill of (110).		0.24m deep.
107	***?Ditch cut***	**E-W aligned linear ditch with moderately sloping concave sides and a concave base. Min 3m long, 1.5m wide & Possibly associated with ridge & furrow evident across the field. Filled with (108).**		**0.73m deep.**
108	*Fill*	Brown sandy silty clay with occasional small and medium sub-rounded and sub-angular sandstone fragments, predominantly at the base of the deposit. Very similar to topsoil. Single fill of (107).		
109	*Fill*	Possibly equivalent to (101). Dark brown silty clay with common small angular stones. Slightly mixed. Fill of ditch (104).		
110	***Posthole***	**Sub-circular cut with shallow concave sides and a concave base. Diffuse edges. Filled with (106), (114), (115) and (121). Post removed. Cuts subsoil (113). 0.82 x 0.72m**		**0.24m deep**
111	*Fill*	Orange-brown silty sand with frequent small-large sub-rounded and sub-angular sandstone fragments. Occasional more rounded or more angular examples of the same. Even distribution throughout, with small patches of more sandy matrix. Some slanting lenses. Thin greyish brown peagrit at interface with bedrock. >4m x >3m. Naturally deposited fill(s) of periglacial feature (112).		0.9m deep
112	***Periglacial feature***	**Large irregular feature in S end of trench. >4m x >3m. Filled with (111).**		**0.9m deep**
113	*Subsoil*	Yellowish-brown firm sandy silty clay with common small-		0.3m deep

		medium sub-angular and sub-rounded sandstone fragments. Mixed by root action. Patchy coarse component distribution..	
114	*Fill*	Yellowish brown loose sandy silty clay with occasional small-medium sub-rounded – sub-angular sandstone fragments (even distribution). Interface with (113) very diffuse. Probably the same as (115), with more components. Fill of posthole, surrounds (106).	
115	*Fill*	As (114), but with fewer components. Contained within post-packing – represents post-pipe following removal and infilling. 0.2m diameter	0.2m deep
116	*Fill*	Mid brown moist silty clay loam, compact. Organised, common sub-angular stone, 40-100mm. Rare charcoal. Central fill of ditch (104). Diffuse boundaries with (117) and (119).	
117	*Fill*	Mid yellow brown clay silty loam with common small angular stones. Material slumped in from se side, ?bank material, or deliberate deposit. 0.7m wide. Fill of (104).	0.29m deep
118	*Fill*	Mid yellow brown clayey silt loam with common small-medium sub-angular, poorly sorted stone. Relatively loose, tip layer from SE side. ?Bank derived infill. 0.7m wide. Fill of (104).	0.21m deep
119	*Fill*	Greyish-brown with yellow-brown matrix, clay silt with common medium-large sub-angular stone. Moderately compact with some bioturbation. Silting from both sides of ditch, possibly inclusive of some bank material? 1.75m wide. Fill of (104).	0.4m deep
120	*Fill*	Mid brown clayey loam with common sub-rounded pebbles. Basal layer. Well-sorted small stones. Similar in appearance to smaller components with bank material (102). Initial silting/infilling within ditch (104), including smaller components of ?bank. 0.9m wide,	0.45m deep
121	*Fill*	Yellowish-brown firm silty clay with frequent small-medium rounded and sub-rounded sandstone pebbles. Worn sandstone rubble in base of posthole (110), sitting within post-packing. A rubble foundation for a post. 0.15m diameter.	0.1m deep

TRENCH 2			**Type:**	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 13.6 x 11.8m		**Max. depth:** 1.01m	**Ground level:** 169.04 – 170.34m aOD	
Context	**Description**			**Depth (m)**
200	*Topsoil*	Mid brown-grey silty loam with common small and medium sub-rounded stones. Post-medieval pottery, silver coins and copper alloy token/counter (medieval).		0 – 0.30
201	*Subsoil*	Ploughsoil; Mid yellowish-brown slightly clay silt. Friable, with common small-medium sub-angular stone fragments up to 300mm. Rare rounded cobbles up to 250mm. Depth varied by up to 0.2m – ridge & furrow.		Max depth 0.48m
202	*VOID*	Void		VOID
203	*Subsoil*	Unploughed subsoil; mid brownish-yellow clay silt. Friable with common small and occasional medium sub-angular stones. Cut by (210), (214), (218) & (225) though very difficult to see; clearer at E end of trench.		0.18 m deep
204	*Natural*	Yellowish/orange brown clay silt with gravel patches.		
205	*Fill*	Mid yellow-grey-brown clay silt with very common medium rounded and sub-rounded stones. Rare carbon flecks. Stone from field clearance? Uppermost fill of ditch (210).		
206	*Layer*	Equivalent to 203. Bronze Age pot sherd.		
207	***?Stakehole***	**Sub-circular cut with near vertical sides and fairly flat base. 0.12m diameter. Cut into base of ditch (212). Could be result of stone-pull.**		
208	*Fill*	Dark grey clay-silt. Friable, abundant carbon fragments. Single fill of (207).		
209	*Fill*	Mid orange-brown clay silt. Moderately compact and friable,		0.21 m deep

		with mottling from manganese staining. Occasional small and medium sized, sub-angular stones. Initial fill of ditch (210). Possibly same as (213).	
210	***Ditch cut***	**N-S aligned linear ditch with moderately sloping sides and flattish base. 1.52m wide. Post-dates filled ditch (216), and possibly (214), but may be contemporaneous with the latter. Relationships a little confused. Undated. Filled with (205), (209), (215-6), (219-20), (224-5).**	**0.42m deep**
211	*Fill*	Mid greyish-brown clay silt with common small and medium sub-angular stones. Rapid single infill of ditch (212) (deliberate or by ploughing).	
212	***Ditch cut***	**E-W aligned linear ditch with moderately sloping sides and flattish base. Min 5.2m long, 0.5m wide,. Filled with (211). Terminal intersects with 214 to E of N-S ditch (210). Sections show opposing relationships.**	**0.35m deep**
213	*Fill*	Mottled yellowish-orange grey clay silt with occasional small sub-angular stones. Natural accumulation of silts in ditch (214). Possibly same as (209).	
214	***Ditch cut***	**E-W aligned linear ditch with moderately sloping sides and flattish base. C. 3.4 x 0.86 x 0.3m. Possible stakehole 207 cut into base. Central of three E-W aligned ditches.**	
215	*Fill*	Mid greyish orange-brown clay silt with common small sub-angular stones. 1.12 m wide. Natural silting in ditch (216), clean and leached.	0.41m deep
216	***Ditch cut***	**SE-NW aligned linear ditch with moderately sloping sides and flattish base. Runs the extent of the trench E-W. Northernmost ditch of three probably fairly contemporaneous ditches (this possibly the earliest). Filled with (215).**	0.22m deep
217	*Fill*	Mid greyish-brown clay silt with occasional medium sub-angular stones. 0.44 x 0.18 m. Fill of (218).	0.22m deep
218	***Posthole***	**Sub-oval cut with steep sides, slightly stepped to the W and biased to the E. Base pointed, to the E. Post removed. Filled with (217).**	
219	*Fill*	Mid brownish-grey slay silt with rare small stones & very common carbon flecks and small lumps. Fill of post-pipe (220) (posthole 225) following post removal. Cut by ditch (210).	
220	*Post-pipe*	Incomplete; ?sub-circular cut, with shallow then steep (stepped) E side and concave base. Steep part represents true post-pipe, with shallower step formed by infilling of posthole above the top of post-packing (224). Post removed. 0.34m diameter as excavated. Cut by (210).	0.35m deep
221	*Fill*	Mid orange-yellow clay silt. Friable with abundant small stones. Collapsed, natural within posthole (223), i.e. primary deposit. Not evident in section.	
222	*Fill*	Mid greyish-orange brown clay silt with rare small stones and carbon flecks. 0.66 x 0.56 m. Silting – fill of posthole (223).	0.35m deep
223	***Posthole***	**Sub-circular cut with near vertical sides, stepped to the W, flattish base. Post removed. Filled with (221-2).**	
224	*Post-packing*	Medium rounded stones up to 250mm in yellow silt matrix. Used to pack post in posthole (225). Originally 0.75m diameter, but w side cut by ditch (210).	
225	***Posthole***	**Incomplete; ?Sub-circular cut with moderately sloping sides and flattish base. Filled with stone packing (224), with 219 filling post-pipe following post removal.**	
226	*Fill*	Possibly equivalent to (213). Unexcavated. Mid grey with orange mottling and manganese flecks. Clay silt with components as (213). 0.7m wide. Possibly the fill of a continuation of ditch (214).	

TRENCH 3			**Type:**	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 7.0 x 6.0m		**Max. depth:** *c.* 0.87m	**Ground level:** 169.10 – 169.65m aOD	
Context	**Description**			**Depth (m)**
300	*Topsoil*	Greyish brown sandy silt with occasional small angular stones; very rooty.		0 – 0.35
301	*Layer*	Large angular rubble in dark grey sandy silt matrix.		0.25 +
302	*Layer*	Possibly equivalent to (301); at S end of trench, stained purple by overlying dump of burnt material.		*c.* 0.40 +
303	*Surface*	Area of cobbled surface, parallel to garden walls (N-S). 1.5 x 1.2 x c. 0.22m deep.		0.31 – 0.53
304	*Layer*	Possibly equivalent to (301), but to E of cobbled surface (302).		0.34 – 0.55
305	*Layer*	Large angular and sub-angular stones set in yellow clay surface. Slightly rough but obviously made. Below (301) in w. extension to trench.		0.38 +
306	*Fill (modern)*	Stone-lined modern drain, fill of (307).		0.87 +
307	***Modern cut***	**Modern pipe trench, filled with (306).**		**0.87 +**

TRENCH 4 (test pit)			**Type:**	Hand excavated
Dimensions: 1.0 x 1.0m		**Max. depth:** 0.5m	**Ground level:** 168.62 – 169.16m a OD	
Context	**Description**			**Depth (m)**
401	*Topsoil*	Mid-brown silt.		0 – 0.14
402	*Layer*	Red gravel, very compact. Path/levelling?		0.12 – 0.23
403	*Layer*	Red sandy gravel with medium-small angular & sub-angular stones, very compact.		0.22 – 0.35
404	*Made ground*	Rough 'surface' of large & medium sized angular & sub-angular stone; very compact sandy silt matrix, mid grey-brown. ?Post-medieval associated with farm use period? Not bottomed.		0.30 – 0.5 +

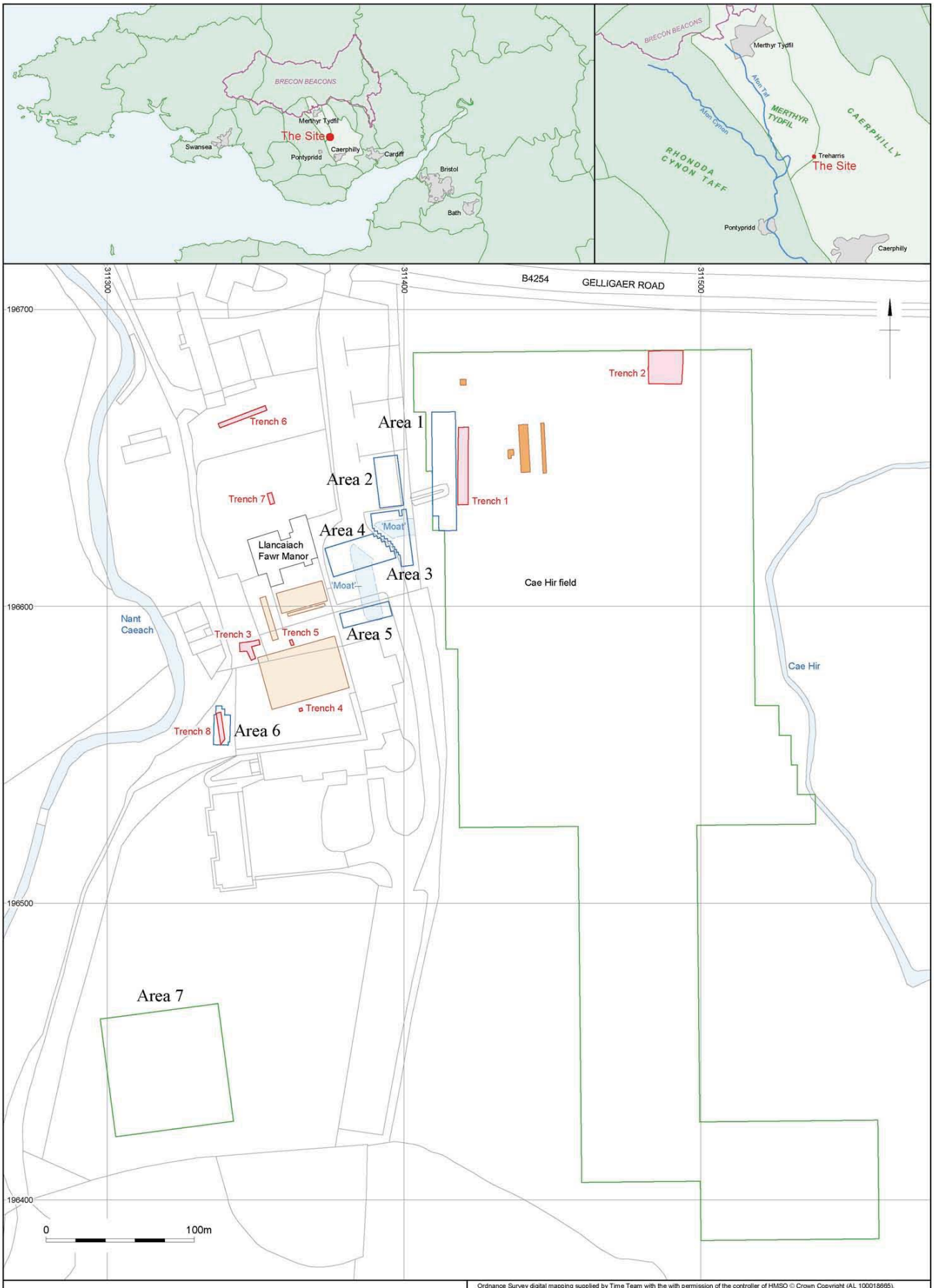
TRENCH 5			**Type:**	hand excavated
Dimensions: 2.0 x 1.0m		**Max. depth:** 0.78m	**Ground level:** 169.75 m aOD	
Context	**Description**			**Depth (m)**
501	*Topsoil*	Dark grey silty loam.		0 – 0.21
502	*Surface*	Compact, small stone/cobble ?yard, related to farm use period.		0.21 – 0.25
503	*Layer*	Lenses of red cinder & red/black burnt material with loose, small sub-angular platy stones; upper level red, lower black with stones.		0.25 – 0.6
504	*Layer*	Small & medium sub-angular platey stone, well-sorted; dark brown slightly clayey silt matrix. ?Yard make-up.		0.55 – 0.69
505	*Natural*	Mottled yellow & mid-brown clayey silt with occasional large & medium sized sub-angular platy stone; some mineral staining.		0.64 +

TRENCH 6			**Type:**	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 17.0 x 1.7m		**Max. depth:** 0.85m	**Ground level:** 170.48 – 171.45m aOD	
Context	**Description**			**Depth (m)**
600	*Topsoil*	Dark yellowish-brown firm sandy silt clay with common small & medium sub-angular & sub-rounded pebbles.		0 – 0.2
601	*Layer*	Clinker, possible surface, westernmost 6m of trench, between (600) & (602).		*c.* 0.2 – 0.3

602	*Garden soil*	Firm brown sandy silt clay with occasional small to medium sub-angular & sub-rounded sandstone fragments.	0.2 – 0.35
603	*Natural*	Yellow-brown compact clay silt with common small sub-angular stones.	0.35 +
604	***Animal grave***	**Sub-rectangular cut with steep, straight sides and flat base. 1.44 x 1.1 x 0.18m. Filled with (605) & (608). Cuts (602).**	**0.35 – 0.53**
605	*Animal grave fill*	Mid yellowish-brown firm sandy silt clay with moderate small-medium sub-angular stone. Fills (604).	0.35 – 0.53
606	***Animal grave/ ?garden feature***	**Incomplete; sub-rectangular cut with steep, concave sides and ?concave base. 1.2m wide, 0.65m deep.**	**0.21 – 0. 85**
607	*Fill*	Pale yellow, firm sandy silt clay with frequent small & medium sized sub-angular stone. 1.53m wide, 0.41m deep. Upper fill of (606).	0.21 – 0.63
608	*Animal burial remains*	Articulated remains of calf burial; laid on right side, E-W within cut. Bone in poor condition, much of trabecular bone lost. 1.44 x 1.1m, *c.* 0.1m deep. Fills (604).	*c.* 0.43 – 0.53
609	*Fill*	Incomplete; mixed yellowish-brown with mottles of dark yellow brown, loose sandy silt clay, firm silt clay with frequent small-medium sized sub-rounded pebbles and rare sub-rounded and sub-angular stone. Lower fill of (606). Possibly contains articulated animal remains – but only a few rib fragments and a stain survived. 1.61m wide, 0.33m deep.	0.21 – 0.85
610	*Masonry*	N-S aligned, uneven linear wall ?footing. Yellowish-brown firm sandy silt clay with frequent sub-rounded and sub-angular sandstone pieces. Located west of lead pipe, possibly wall remnant associated with garden. 0.5m deep.	*c.* 0.34 – 0.84

TRENCH 7			**Type:**	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 3.6 x 1.65m		**Max. depth:** 1.02m	**Ground level:** 171.09 m aOD	
Context	**Description**			**Depth (m)**
700	*Turf/topsoil*	Dark grey silty loam.		0 – 0.22
701	*Made ground*	Layers of cinder & redeposited natural – very mixed, yellowish-brown clay silt with medium-small sub-rounded pebbles.		0.2 – 0.5
702	*Layer*	Strong brown, slightly sandy silt; occasional small angular & sub-angular stones. Overlies (703). ?buried garden soil.		0.4 – 0.6
703	*Natural*	Strong brown compact sandy silt, slight clay component. Organised split platy stone at various angle. Darker streaks pulled down by root action.		0.6 +

TRENCH 8			**Type:**	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 10.3 x 1.5m		**Max. depth:** 0.35m	**Ground level:** 167.78 – 168.0m aOD	
Context	**Description**			**Depth (m)**
800	*Topsoil*	Very rooty dark greyish brown silty loam.		0 – 0.35
801	*Natural*	Very variable yellowish brown with patches of orange-brown clayey silt, latter including common medium & small sub-rounded stones & pebbles.		0.35 +



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Location of site, evalution trenches and geophysical survey areas

Figure 1

Gradiometer interpretations

- ?Archaeology
- Uncertain
- Natural
- Trend
- Ploughing
- Ferrous

GPR interpretations

- Ditch cut
- Uncertain - Low / High amplitude / Increased response
- Natural - High amplitude / Increased response / Trend
- Trend
- Service / Modern
- ?Service / Modern

- Evaluation trench
- Gradiometer survey area
- GPR survey area

Wessex Archaeology

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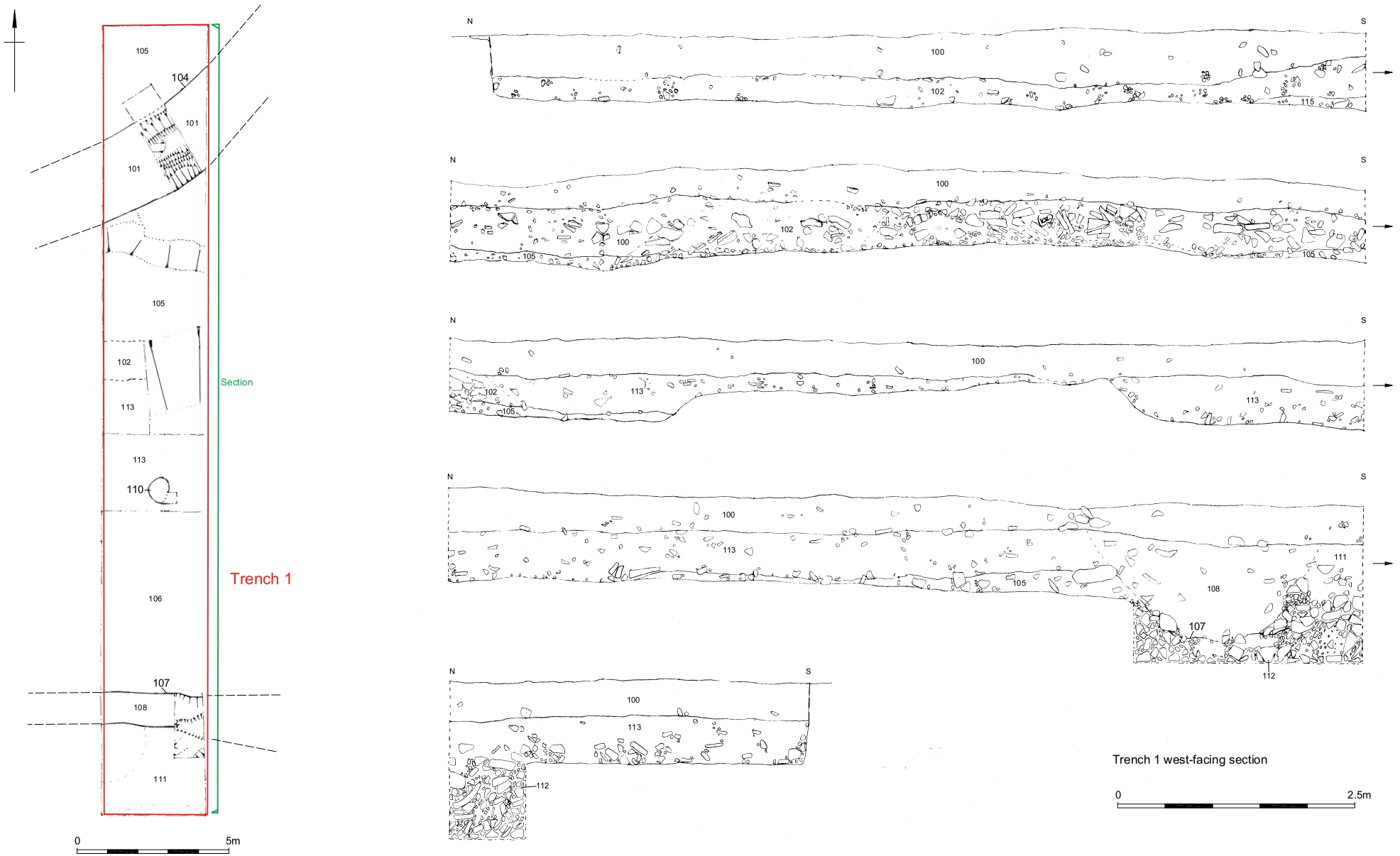
Summary of geophyscial results

Figure 2



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Evaluation trench

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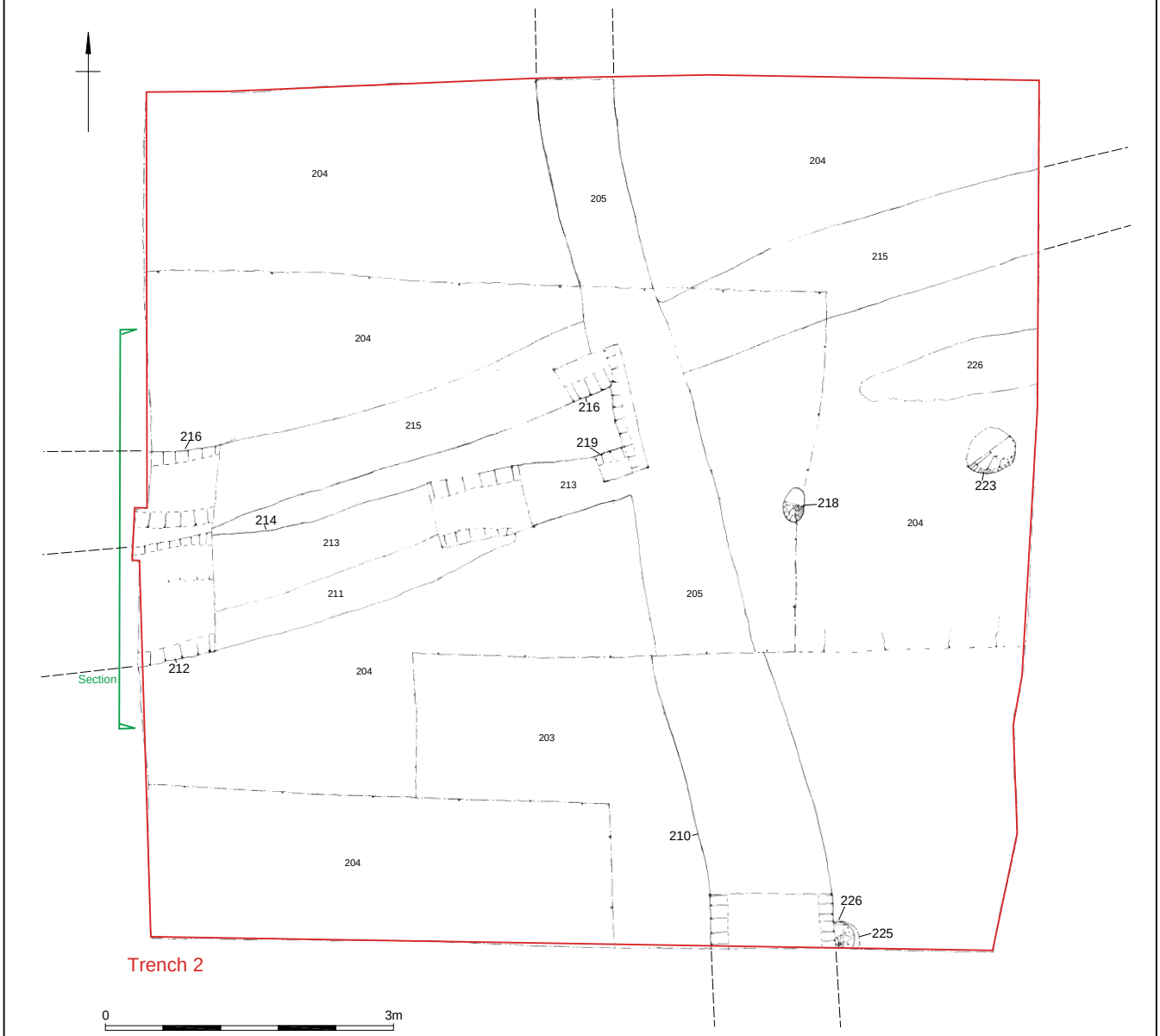
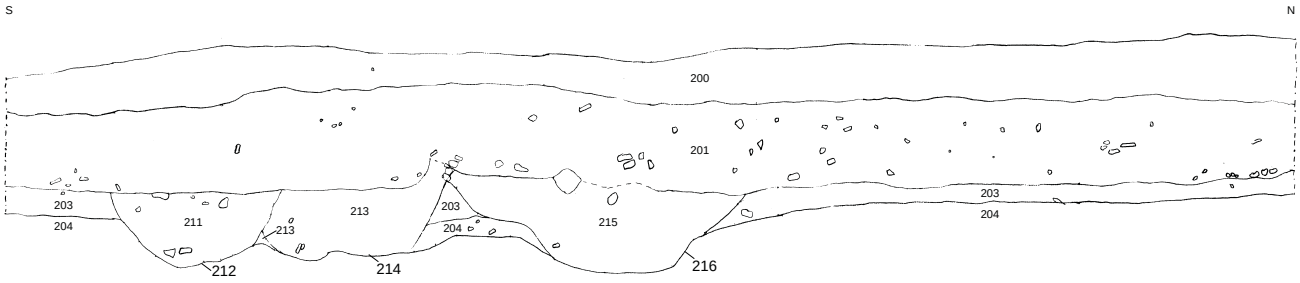
Trench 1: plan and section

Figure 3





Trench 2 east-facing section

0 2.5m

Evaluation trench

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Trench 2: plan and section

Figure 4

Plate 1: Trench 1, view from south

Plate 2: Trench 1, stone 'bank' material 102

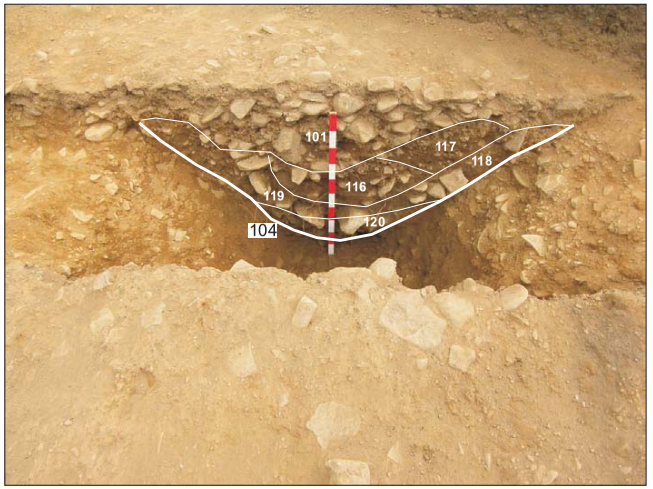

Plate 3: Trench 1, south-west facing section through ditch 104

Plate 4: Trench 2, ditches at pre-excavation, view from west

Plate 5: Trench 2, post-excavation view from the east

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Date:	18/02/11	Revision Number:	0
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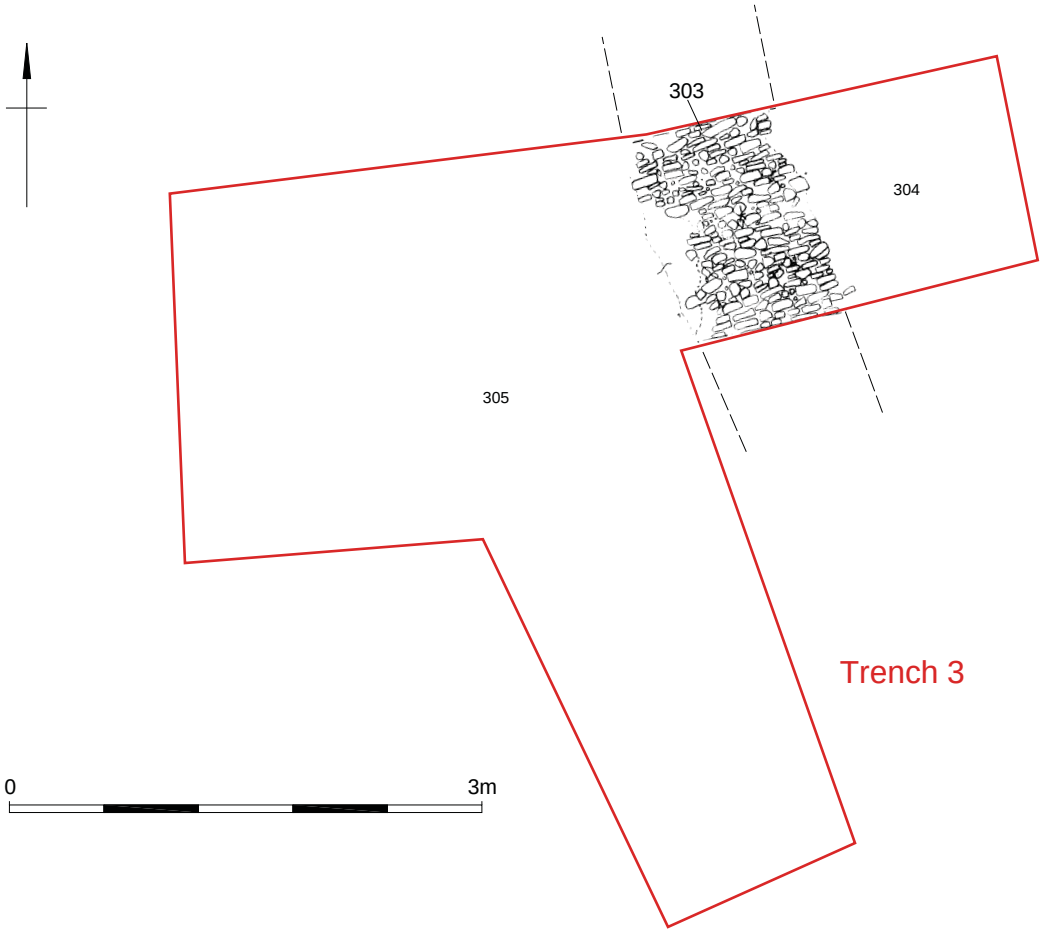

Plate 6: Cobbled surface 303, view from south

Evaluation trench

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Trench 3: plan and photograph

Figure 6

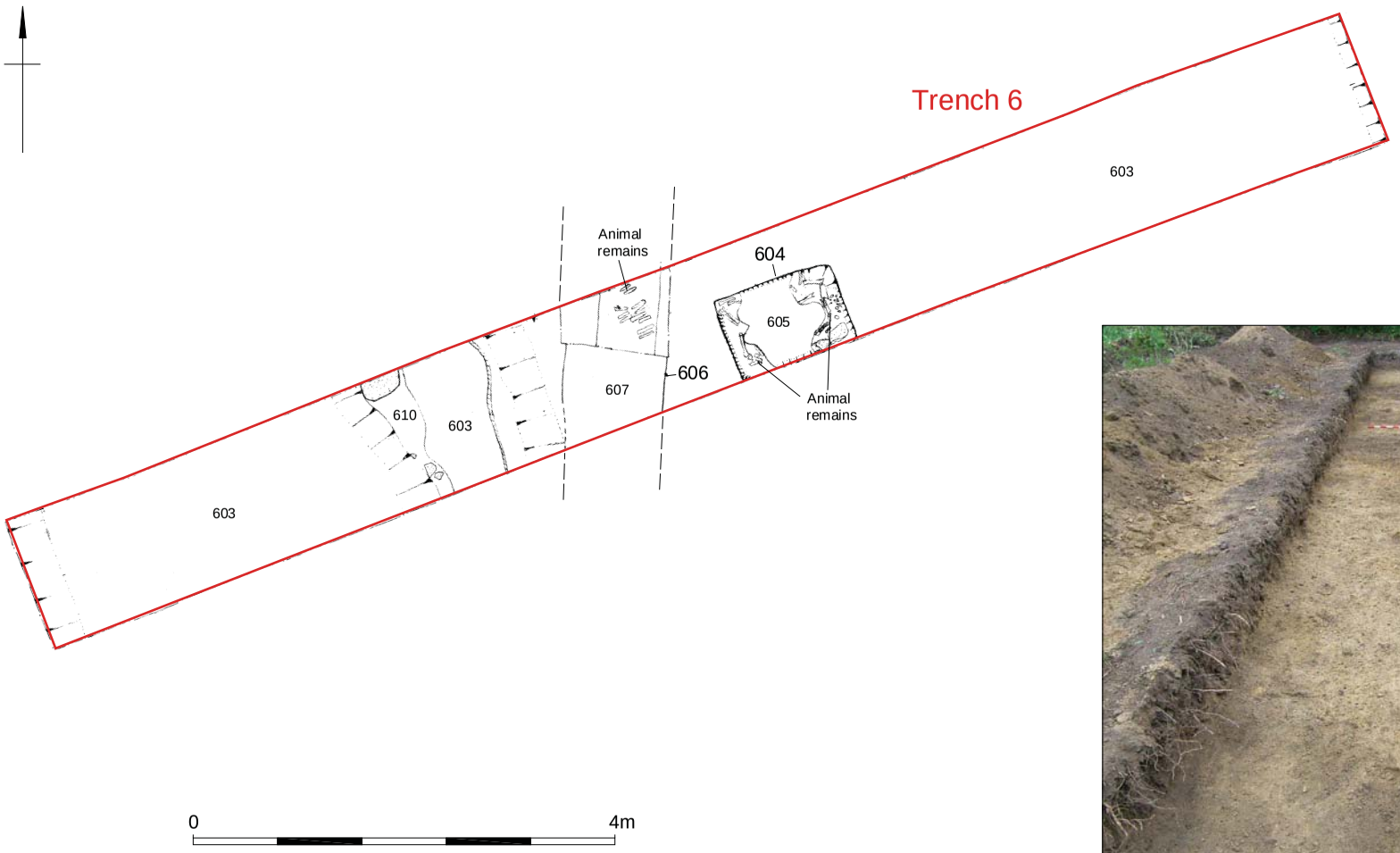

Plate 7: Trench 6, view from east

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Evaluation trench

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Trench 6: plan and photograph

Figure 7

Plate 8: Trench 4, view from north

Plate 9: Trench 5, view from south

Plate 10: Various make-up layers in Trench 5

Plate 11: Trench 7, view from south

Plate 12: Trench 8, view from north

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Date:	18/02/11	Revision Number:	0
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