



Ancient Cwmbrân & the Cistercians Community Archaeology Project

Fairwater, Greenmeadow and
Thornhill Woods
Cwmbran

NGR ST 2700 9500

BORDER ARCHAEOLOGY

PO Box 36
Leominster
Herefordshire
HR6 0YQ

Technical Services

Chapel Walk
Burgess Street
Leominster
Herefordshire
HR6 8DE
Tel: 01568 610101
Tel/fax: 01568 616900
E-mail: borderarch@btconnect.com

Southern Office

Unit 25
Basepoint Business Centre
Winnall Valley Road
Winchester
Hampshire
SO23 0LD
Tel: 01962 832720





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Report specification:

Draft Report: Adam Parry BA MA & Will Logan BA Dip

Documentary Research: Ross Shurety BA (Cantab)

Artwork: Will Logan BA Dip

Report editing: Stephen Priestley MA

Approved: Neil Shurety Dip.M. G.M.Inst.M.



1. Non Technical Summary

This report details the results of four programmes of archaeological fieldwork undertaken as part of the Ancient Cwmbran and the Cistercians Community Archaeology Project by Border Archaeology on behalf of the Ancient Cwmbran and the Cistercians Partnership Board. The works consisted of the following components:

1/ Archaeological trial trenching undertaken in May 2010 on land at Greenmeadow Woods, Cwmbran, which investigated several sections of dry stone walling that appeared to represent parts of a long, meandering relict field boundary disassociated with the surrounding pattern of post-medieval enclosure, possibly of medieval or earlier date. Evidence was found of a cobbled surface that appeared to represent a gateway inserted within the field boundary wall.

2/ A second programme of excavation undertaken in June 2010 at Thornhill Wood, investigated a substantial section of dry stone walling and the heavily denuded remains of a possible masonry structure to the S, possibly associated with the dry stone wall. The boundary wall and associated masonry structure appeared to form part of a complex of structures, possibly representing an upland farmstead of medieval or early post-medieval date.

3/ Another programme of fieldwork, located on land to the N of Fairwater School, Cwmbran, was undertaken in July 2010, focused on the remains of a possible masonry structure of uncertain date and function, comprised of massive sandstone and quartz conglomerate blocks. The structure, through superficially appearing to resemble a prehistoric cairn, does not appear on any historic mapping and the excavation revealed no finds or deposits indicative of burial activity or any associated domestic occupation, which casts some doubt on the antiquity of this feature.

4/ The final phase of archaeological works, again undertaken within Greenmeadow Woods in August 2010, investigated the denuded remains of a possible structure or enclosure feature constructed on a terrace in the NW corner of the woods. This structure was interpreted as possibly representing a platform house, a type of dwelling characteristically found in the Welsh uplands which is generally dated to the medieval or early post-medieval periods.

Due to the almost complete absence of artefactual evidence, it is extremely difficult to assign a date to these features. None of these boundary walls or structures appears on historic mapping of the area (dating back to c.1810) and documentary references are similarly lacking. These features appear not to be associated with the tracts of woodland in which they are situated, all of which, in their present form, can be described as coppice woods of 18th or early 19th century origin.

Neither does there appear to be clear evidence of an association between these features and the pattern of enclosure outside the woodland tracts, which appears largely to be of post-medieval date. Consequently, it may be inferred that these features relate to a markedly different pattern of land use and enclosure, predating the establishment of the existing tracts of post-medieval woodland.

2. Introduction

This report details the results of a programme of archaeological works commissioned by The Ancient Cwmbran and The Cistercians Partnership. The works programme comprised excavations undertaken at four separate locations identified by Richard Davies within Cwmbran. Previously, an excavation was carried out in November 2009 on a section of the Cistercian Way near Greenmeadow Community Farm, the results of which were submitted as a separate report (BA0917TCBCACP/01). Four further sites were identified in three specific areas, namely Fairwater, Greenmeadow and Thornhill Woods, and the results of these investigations, undertaken between May and August 2010, form the basis of the present report.

Fieldwork was supervised by Company staff with the participation of substantial numbers of community members. Training in the use of field techniques was also provided by Border Archaeology both before and during each phase of the excavation programme. A limited programme of documentary and cartographic research was undertaken at the Gwent Record Office, Cwmbran and the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, in order to clarify the interpretation of the archaeological features identified.

A copy of this report will be sent to Torfaen County Borough Council and Richard Davies Esq. for the Ancient Cwmbran and the Cistercians Partnership Board, together with copies of the research documentation collected.



Fig 1: Location Plan



2.1 Soils & Geology

Cwmbrân is classified as an unsurveyed urban/industrial area by the Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW, 1983). However, bordering Greenmeadow immediately to the W is an area of stagnogleyic brown earths of the MIDDLETON series (572b), consisting of reddish fine silty soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging over Devonian reddish silty shale and siltstone.

3. Historical and Archaeological Background

The four archaeological investigations detailed in this report were located in three separate tracts of woodland, Fairwater Woods, Greenmeadow Woods and Thornhill Woods, lying on the western outskirts of the modern town of Cwmbran. Prior to the establishment of the 'new town' of Cwmbran in the early 1950s, these three areas of woodland were located some distance from Cwmbran, within the rural parishes of Llanfihangel Llantarnam and Llanfrechfa.

Archaeological evidence for pre-medieval settlement in the immediate locality of the study area is extremely sparse. Evidence for prehistoric activity is limited to the find of a Neolithic stone axe, made during the construction of Fairwater High School in the early 1970s. However, funerary activity of Bronze Age date has been identified in the wider locality, represented by cairn groupings at Twmbarlwm and Craig-y-dyffryn (near Henllys). Evidence for Roman occupation is limited to a possible quarry site of Roman date identified in Thornhill Woods, from where sandstone deposits were reputedly utilised for re-roofing the barracks at the legionary fortress of Caerleon, however no definite proof of Roman activity in this area has been found (Fox, 1940, 150).

From the late 12th century onwards, the study area lay within the manor of *Magna Porta* (meaning 'Great Gate') which formed part of the foundation endowment of the Cistercian abbey of Llantarnam, granted by its founder, Hywel ap Iorwerth lord of Caerleon, in about 1179 (Williams, 1976, 77). The abbey, which was a daughter house of Strata Florida (*Ystrad Fflur*), was an emphatically Welsh foundation, with its landed endowments being situated in close proximity to the Anglo-Norman lordships of Newport and Usk; these factors undoubtedly contributed to its somewhat troubled history.

Disputes with neighbouring Cistercian houses and seizure of lands by the powerful Marcher baron Gilbert de Clare, lord of Usk (d.1296) appear to have contributed to Llantarnam's decline. Further misfortune occurred in or shortly before 1398, when the abbey buildings, together with its records and ornaments, were 'enormously devastated' by an accidental fire (Williams, 1976, 82-3). At the time of its dissolution in August 1536, Llantarnam was one of the poorer Cistercian houses in South Wales, its annual value amounting to £79 compared to wealthier foundations such as Margam and Tintern (Williams, 1976, 89-90). The estates of Llantarnam Abbey were subsequently purchased by William Morgan in 1561 and remained in the possession of the Morgans until the early 18th century, when the property was divided between the two daughters and heirs of Edward Morgan in 1707. Llantarnam Abbey and the manor of Magna Porta subsequently came into the hands of the Blewitt family who held these properties until the late 19th century (Bradney 1923, 228-36).

As a result of its extremely chequered history, documentary information regarding the estates of Llantarnam Abbey during the medieval period is extremely scarce, in marked



contrast to other Cistercian houses in South Wales, such as Margam or Tintern Abbey, no manorial or grange accounts have survived prior to its dissolution in 1536. Consequently, our knowledge of the estates of Llantarnam Abbey is almost entirely dependent on three sources: the *Taxatio Ecclesiastica*, a detailed valuation of ecclesiastical property in England and Wales drawn up by Pope Nicholas IV in 1291-2, the *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, a Crown survey of monastic estates drawn up in 1535 and a detailed account of the Abbey's estates at the time of its suppression a year later (Williams, 1976, 145-7).

These sources provide relatively few details about land use, enclosure and settlement on the abbey's estates, and those surviving references do not appear to relate specifically to the study area in question. It would appear, in common with other Cistercian houses in Wales, that pastoral farming played an important role in the economic activities of the abbey; the *Taxatio Ecclesiastica* of 1291 records that Llantarnam held 132 cows and 588 sheep. However there is also evidence to indicate that the monks of Llantarnam were actively engaged in assarting upland waste and converting it to arable cultivation in the early 13th century.

It is difficult to say to what extent the present day landscape pattern in the locality of the study area reflects the land management activities of the Cistercian monks of Llantarnam. While the available medieval documents provide some information about the larger units of property belonging to the abbey, what they often fail to record are the platform houses and long-huts, the remains of which are often found dispersed across the uplands and appear to have been associated with smallholdings that would have been carved out of these larger units. This is not altogether surprising; studies of the distribution of platform houses and long-huts on the uplands of Glamorgan have suggested that many of these small upland farmsteads could well have been established during periods when the authority of monastic landlords was weak or disputed by powerful Marcher lords such as the de Clares (RCAHMS, 1982, 19-21).

The *Taxatio Ecclesiastica* of 1291 lists nineteen separate properties belonging to Llantarnam, two of which, Pwl-pan and Court, are specifically described as granges. The *Valor Ecclesiasticus* of 1535 lists 12 properties, five of which are described as granges, together with two chapels at Penrhys and 'St Derval's' (probably to be identified with Llanderfel Farm). Further information is supplied by the ministers' accounts for 1535-36, which refers to another grange at Gelli-las (present-day Llantarnam Grange) and another possible chapel site at St Dial's.

With the exception of Llanderfel and possibly St Dial's, the farms in the locality of the study area that appear on the tithe map and later OS mapping, namely Greenmeadow (Cae-glas) Maes-y-rhiw, Pen-llangwyn, Troed-y-rhiw (present day Park House Farm) and Ty'r-ywen are not mentioned in the 1291 and 1535 surveys or the post-Dissolution ministers' accounts. The evidence for the origin of these landholdings is extremely patchy; documentary evidence is limited before the mid to late 17th century, while Greenmeadow and Ty'r ywen are the only two farmsteads to have retained substantial evidence of early fabric. Both Pen-llangwyn and Park House Farm appear to have been substantially rebuilt in the late 19th-20th centuries while Maes-y-rhiw Farm was demolished in the mid 1990s.

Greenmeadow Farm is documented as in existence by no later than 1634, when it was in the possession of a yeoman named George Williams and subsequently came into the possession of the Jones family of St Dial's; the present farm appears largely to have been rebuilt in 1752. Little is known about the early history of Maes-y-rhiw, however the



building appears to have been an early 17th century farmhouse of 'end-entry' type, while Ty'r-ywen is a good surviving example of a 17th century farmhouse with attached cowshed. A possible hypothesis, based on comparison with a landscape study undertaken in 1998 on nearby Cil-lonydd Grange (another estate belonging to Llantarnam), is that these farmhouses and their associated landholdings were of late 16th-17th century origin, post-dating the dissolution of Llantarnam Abbey and the breakdown of the larger medieval grange estates into smaller landholding units (Weeks, 1998, 126-8).

The origins of the existing tracts of woodland that form such an important component of the landscape to the W of present-day Cwmbran can also be traced back to the post-medieval period. Although the monks of Llantarnam were certainly engaged in converting upland waste to cultivation, as well as pastoral farming, there is little documentary evidence for wholesale clearance of woodland undertaken by the monks. This may reflect the general scarcity of available documentation for the land management activities of Llantarnam Abbey, as other Cistercian houses in South Wales (most notably Tintern) were certainly engaged in woodland clearance. However there is evidence from post-Dissolution accounts and later 17th century records suggesting that extensive tracts of woodland survived on the abbey's manor of Magna Porta at least until the middle of the 16th century and that large-scale felling of parts of these wooded areas did not occur until the mid-late 17th century (Williams, 1976, 90-1; GRO Ref. D3267.7).

Can we determine, therefore, whether Greenmeadow, Fairwater and Thornhill Woods represent remnants of medieval forestry or post-medieval managed woodland? In their present form, the boundaries of all three woodland tracts can be described as of post-medieval origin, based on the available documentation and historic mapping. A detailed map of the Cwmbran district (at a scale of 2 inches to the mile) drawn up by in 1813 by the Ordnance Survey, shows that the boundaries of these three tracts of woodland were very different to those existing today and that much of the area now occupied by these woods was then either under pasture or arable cultivation. The critical period in the formation of present day Fairwater, Greenmeadow and Thornhill Woods appears to have occurred during the early to mid 19th century. Examination of the parish tithe maps for Llantarnam and Llanfrechfa reveal that, by the mid 1840s, the boundaries of Fairwater and Greenmeadow Woods had been established, although in the case of Thornhill, it would not assume its present form until the early 1880s.

The motivation behind the creation of these areas of managed, coppice woodland was the provision of a sustainable resource of woodland for both timber and fuel, to supply the massive demand resulting from the rapid industrialisation of the South Wales valleys during the late 18th-early 19th century. By the early 1840s, all three areas of coppice belonged to Reginald Blewitt Esq. (d.1878) of Llantarnam Abbey, who had established a colliery at Upper Cwmbran (Porthmawr) in 1837 and had significantly enlarged the iron forge and foundry in Cwmbran (later known as the G.K.N. Works). It is likely that these coppice woods, in their present form, were largely established by Blewitt in the late 1830s, contemporary with the opening of the Upper Cwmbran Colliery

4. Methodology

The programme of archaeological works was carried out in accordance with established technical and ethical standards, including those set out by the Institute for Archaeologists in *Standard and Guidance for archaeological excavation* (2001), *Code of conduct* (2002) and *Code of approved practice for the regulation of contractual*

arrangements in field archaeology (2002). All archaeological features and deposits were excavated manually down to undisturbed natural deposits and full written, graphic and photographic records made using *pro-forma* record sheets, these being in accordance with Border Archaeology's *Field Recording Manual* (2008).

All spoil and removed material was examined visually and sorted for artefacts, which were recorded and, where appropriate, retained. A written record was compiled using individual numbered *pro-forma* context sheets to create a detailed stratigraphic record of the site. Plans, sections and elevations were produced at scales of 1:50, 1:20 or 1:10, as appropriate, on *pro-forma* gridded archivally stable polyester film. All plans, elevations and sections also contain grid and level information relative to OS data. All drawings are numbered and listed in a drawing register, these drawing numbers being cross-referenced to written site records.

A photographic record of all stratigraphic contexts was made using a 10.3MPX digital camera, together with representative photographs of the progress of the excavation at each of the sites. All such records were indexed and cross-referenced to written site records and details concerning subject and direction of view were maintained in a photographic register, indexed by frame number. A temporary benchmark was established on each of the sites investigated, these being derived from known Ordnance Survey datum points.

5. Greenmeadow Wood (Phase 1)

The investigation comprised three trenches situated along a single section of masonry wall running approximately NW-SE. Trench 1 was aligned N-S and measured 2m × 7.3m, Trench 2 ran E-W and measured 1m × 4.3m while Trench 3 also extended N-S and measured 1m × 3m.

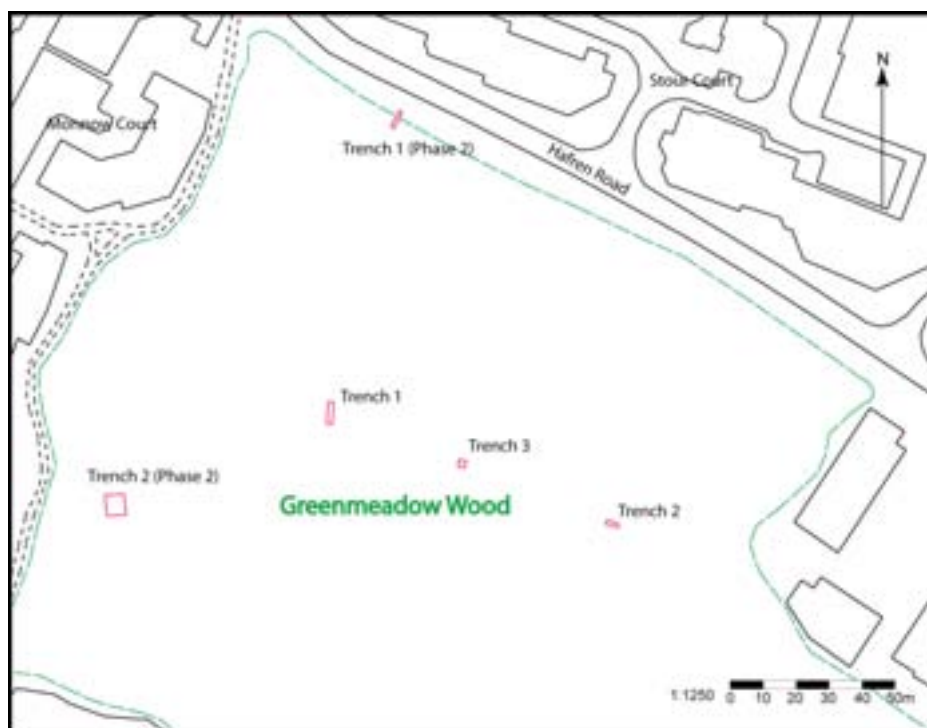


Fig 2: Trench location plan for Greenmeadow Wood (Phases 1 & 2)

Results

Trench 1 (NGR ST 27297 95670)

Trench 1 was excavated on a N-S alignment along the western extent of the study area, some 40m northwest of Trench 3. Nine contexts were identified. Underlying the topsoil (101) was (102), a soft light orangey-brown clayey silt subsoil deposit measuring 3.46m × >2m × 0.06m. Beneath (102) were two deposits, the first of which (109) consisted of moderately compact mid orangey-brown silty sand subsoil deposit measuring >1m × >1m × 0.24m.

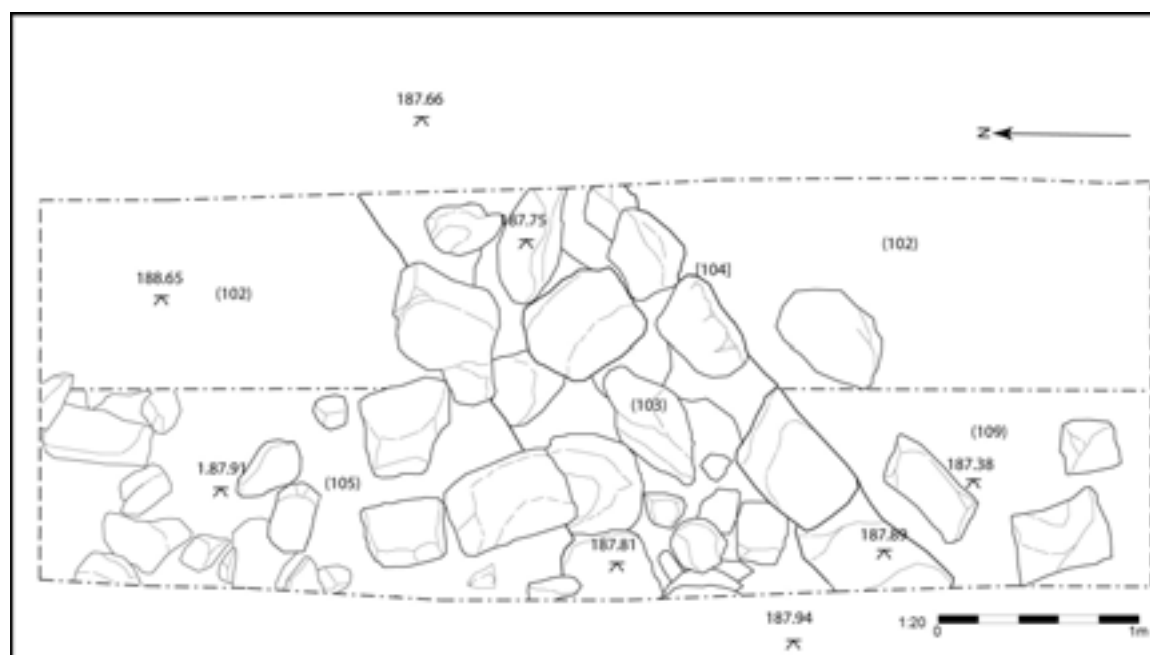


Fig 3: (Detail) Plan of Trench 1 showing wall (103)

Also revealed beneath (102) was the fill (106) of a possible ditch [107] visible in section at the northernmost end of the trench and measuring >2m × 0.7m × 0.27m. The ditch was oriented roughly E-W, with a sharp break of slope at the top of the profile and a moderately sloping side breaking to a flat base. The N slope of the ditch lay beyond the limit of excavation. The ditch contained a single fill (106) composed of loose to moderately compact mid reddish-brown sandy silty clay measuring >2m × >0.7m × 0.27m. Cut by [107] was (105), a soft to moderately compact orange silty sand subsoil deposit extending over an area measuring 3.35m × >1m × 0.4m. (105) contained a substantial quantity of sandstone/conglomerate rubble at the southern end of the trench.

Underlying (105) and visible within the central and southern parts of Trench 1 was (103), a masonry wall of dry-stone construction aligned NE-SW with evidence of a possible return, aligned roughly N-S, comprising very large sandstone and quartz conglomerate blocks measuring on average 0.5m × 0.3m × 0.5m. The wall was crudely constructed using substantial unworked blocks as facing stones and was randomly coursed with a rubble and earth core (**Fig. 3; Plates 1 & 2**). The dimensions of the wall as found were >2.4m × 1.2m × 0.63m. It was unclear whether a distinct cut [104] existed or whether what appeared to be a cut had in fact formed as a depression under the weight of the overlying masonry. [104] 'cut' (108), a soft light orangey-brown sandy silt natural deposit measuring >7.3m × >1m × 0.09m.



Plate 1: View looking S showing masonry wall alignment (103) in Trench 1



Plate 2: View looking S showing detail of masonry wall (103) in Trench 1

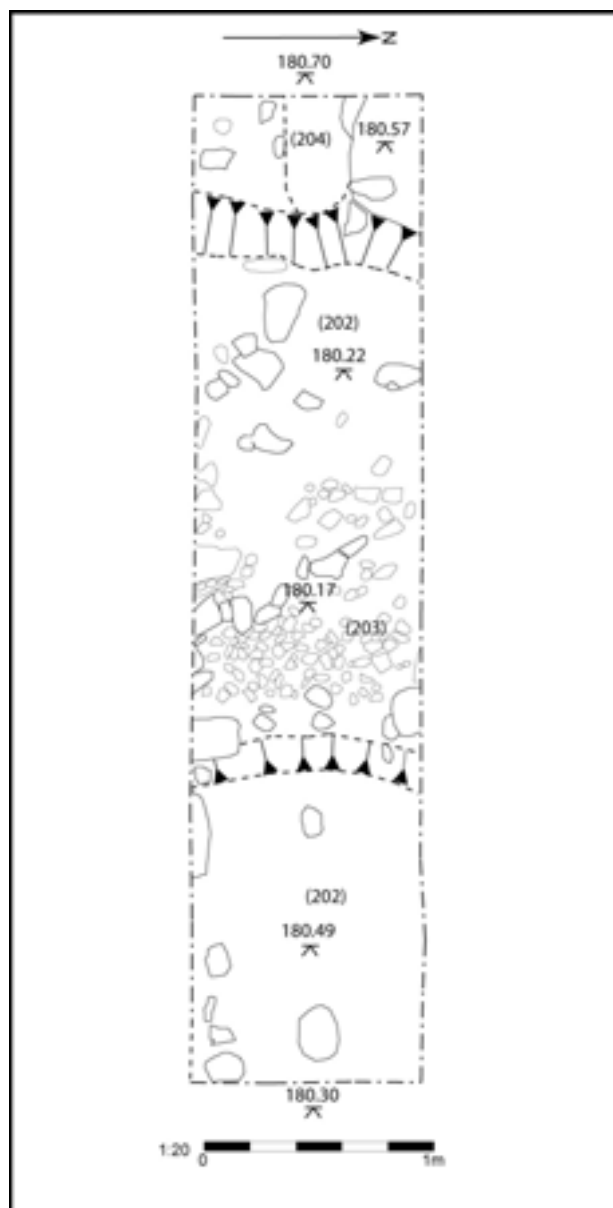
Trench 2 (NGR ST 27370 95640)

Fig 4: Plan of Trench 2

Trench 2 was aligned E-W and situated 50m to the E of Trench 3. A total of six contexts were identified, the uppermost of which (200) was a soft mid greyish-brown sandy silt subsoil layer (201) measuring $>3.7\text{m} \times >1\text{m} \times 0.05\text{m}$. Underlying (201) was (202), a soft light orangey-brown sandy silt measuring $>3.7\text{m} \times >1\text{m} \times 0.22\text{m}$. Beneath (202) was (203), a concentration of small sub-rounded stones measuring (average) $0.06\text{m} \times 0.06\text{m} \times 0.04\text{m}$ (**Plate 3**). These had been compacted together to form a cobbled surface within the centre of Trench 2. This possible pathway measured 1m in width and extended N-S beyond the limit of excavation. The cobbled surface directly overlaid (205), a soft light orangey-brown sandy silt interpreted as natural deposition.



Plate 3: View looking W showing cobbled surface (203) in Trench 2

Located at the western end of the trench, above natural (205), was (204), a section of dry-stone masonry wall aligned E-W and comparable in terms of dimensions, materials and method of construction to wall (103) in Trench 1 (**Plate 4**). The wall projected eastwards to a maximum of >0.5m within Trench 2.



Plate 4: View looking W showing wall (204) in Trench 2

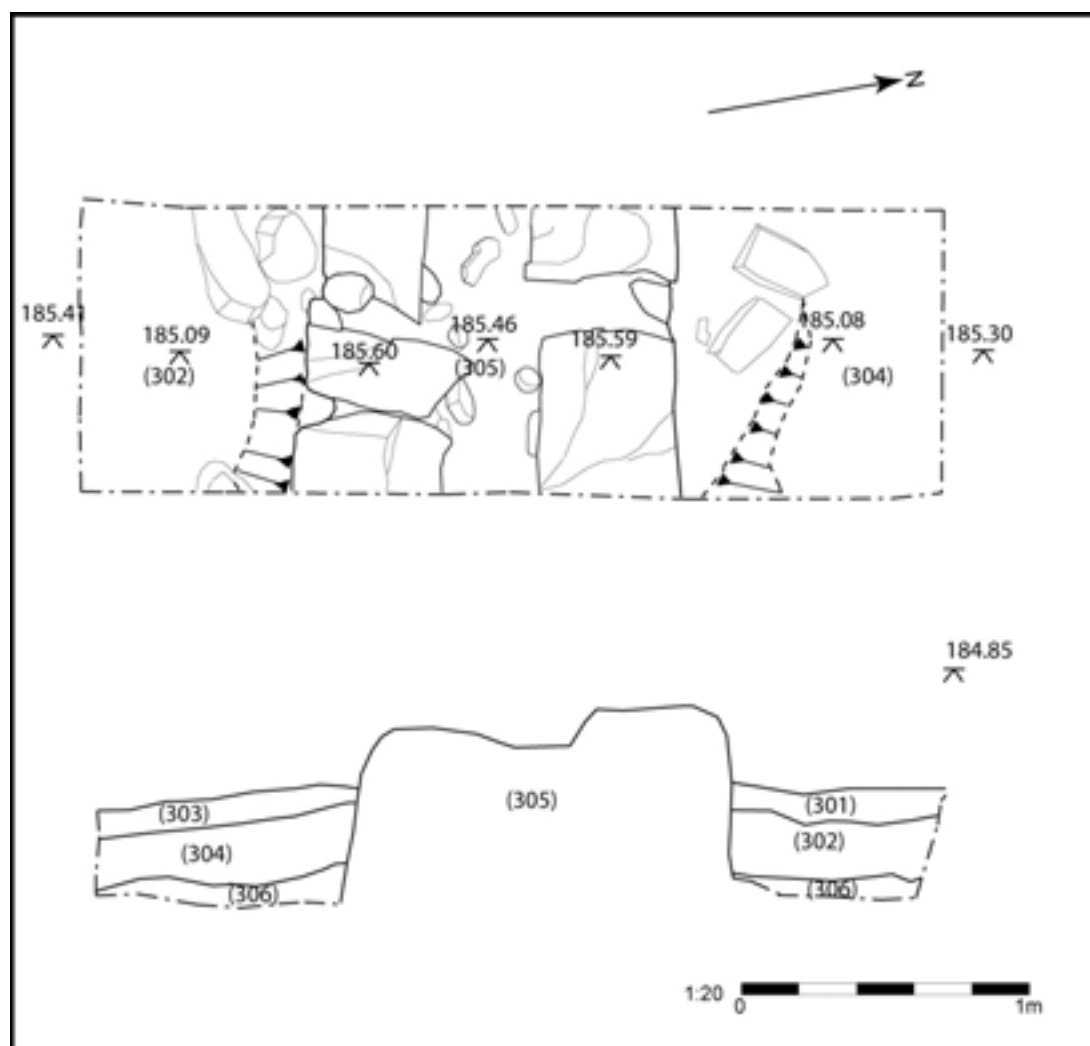
Trench 3 (NGR ST 27333 95663)

Fig 5: Plan and W facing section of Trench 3

Trench 3 was excavated on a N-S alignment, 50m NW of Trench 2 and 40m SE of Trench 1. Seven contexts were identified. Two topsoil deposits (301) and (303) were identified composed of moderately compact dark blackish-brown sandy silt, 0.12m thick, which had accumulated against the N and S sides of a dry stone masonry wall (305) oriented E-W (**Fig. 5; Plates 5 & 6**), which appeared to be a continuation of wall (204) identified in Trench 2.

Underlying (301) was (302), a soft mid orangey-brown sandy clay extending over an area measuring >0.6m x >1m x 0.22m. Underlying (303) was (304), a soft light-orangey brown sandy clay, measuring >0.8m x >1m x 0.22m in extent. Cut from (306), a soft light orangey-brown sandy silt extending >2.75m x >1m x >0.14m, was wall (305) within [307], which was aligned E-W and composed of very large sandstone and quartz conglomerate blocks measuring (average) 0.5m x 0.3m x 0.5m. Substantial unworked blocks had been used as facing stones and these were randomly coursed with a rubble and earth core to form a wall section measuring 1.22m x >1m x 0.7m.



Plate 5: View looking S of Trench 3 showing wall (305)



Plate 6: View looking E showing construction detail of wall (305)

6. Thornhill Woods

Three trenches were opened at predetermined locations: Trench 1 was aligned E-W along the western extent of the study area and measured 4.5m × 3m, Trench 2 ran NW-SE some 8m to the SE of Trench 1 and measured 5m × 5m and Trench 3 was positioned on a N-S alignment approximately 95m southeast of Trench 2 and measured 5m × 1m (**Fig. 6**).



Fig. 6: Plan showing Thornhill Woods and locations of trenching

Results

Trench 1 (NGR ST 27595 95955)

Five contexts were identified, the uppermost of these being (100), a dark friable humic brown clayey silt (100) measuring 0.05m in thickness and much disturbed by root growth and animal activity. Underlying (100) was (104), a substantial scatter of small angular sandstone rubble measuring 0.4 × 0.4 × 0.3m interspersed with angular sandstone and quartz conglomerate blocks of some 0.7 × 0.7 × 0.4m.

Beneath (104) was (101), a section of masonry wall of dry-stone construction aligned approximately N-S. The wall was composed of substantial sandstone and quartz conglomerate blocks with average dimensions of 0.7 × 0.7 × 0.4m and the structure as revealed measured 4.5m × 1.25m × 0.4m (**Fig. 7; Plate 7**). The structure incorporated substantial facing stones and were random coursed with a core of angular sandstone rubble and earth. A cut [103] was recorded, although it was not clear whether this represented an actual cut feature or whether it had formed simply as a depression due to settling of the overlying masonry. Cut by [103] was (102), a firm reddish-brown silty sand probably representing a natural accumulation heavily disturbed by tree roots.

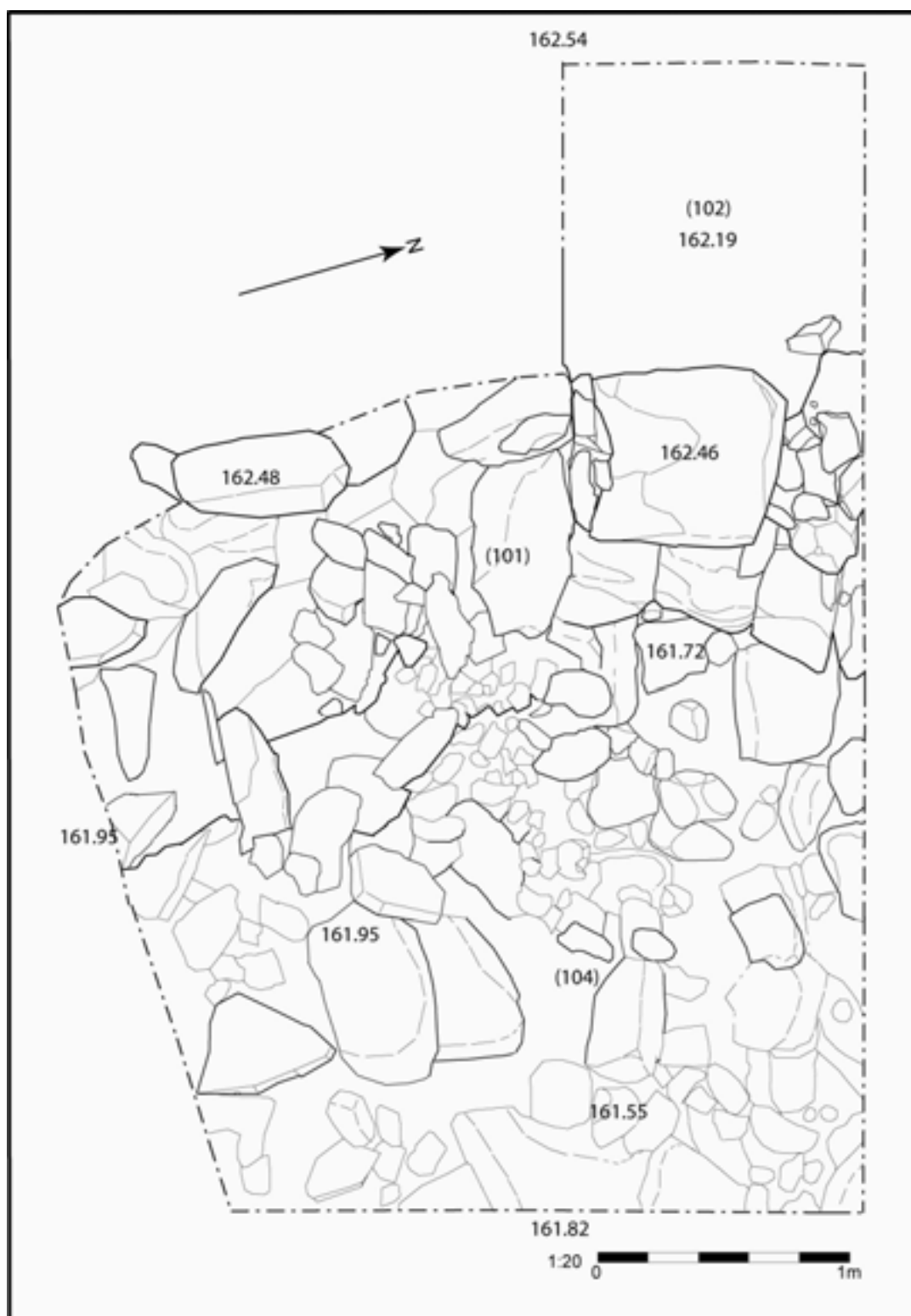


Fig.7: Plan of masonry wall (101) and rubble scatter (104) in Trench 1



Plate 7: View looking W showing wall (101) and associated rubble scatter (104) in Trench 1

Trench 2 (NGR ST 27593 95945)

Six contexts were identified, the uppermost (201), consisting of a moderately compacted, friable mid brown clayey silt exhibiting occasional small sub-rounded sandstone inclusions, which extended trench wide to a depth of 0.2m and revealed evidence of intensive root disturbance and bioturbation. Underlying (201) was (202), a loose light reddish-brown silty sand subsoil deposit containing occasional sandstone inclusions and exhibiting intensive root disturbance, which again extended over the entire area of trenching to a thickness of 0.15m.

(202) in turn overlaid (205), an extensive sandstone and quartz conglomerate rubble spread composed of stones of varying size across the entire excavated area. Underlying (205) was (203), filling [204], which appeared to comprise a structure aligned NNW-SSE and composed of substantial undressed sandstone and quartz conglomerate masonry exhibiting an average block size of 0.46 × 0.5 × 1.38m (**Fig. 8; Plate 8**).

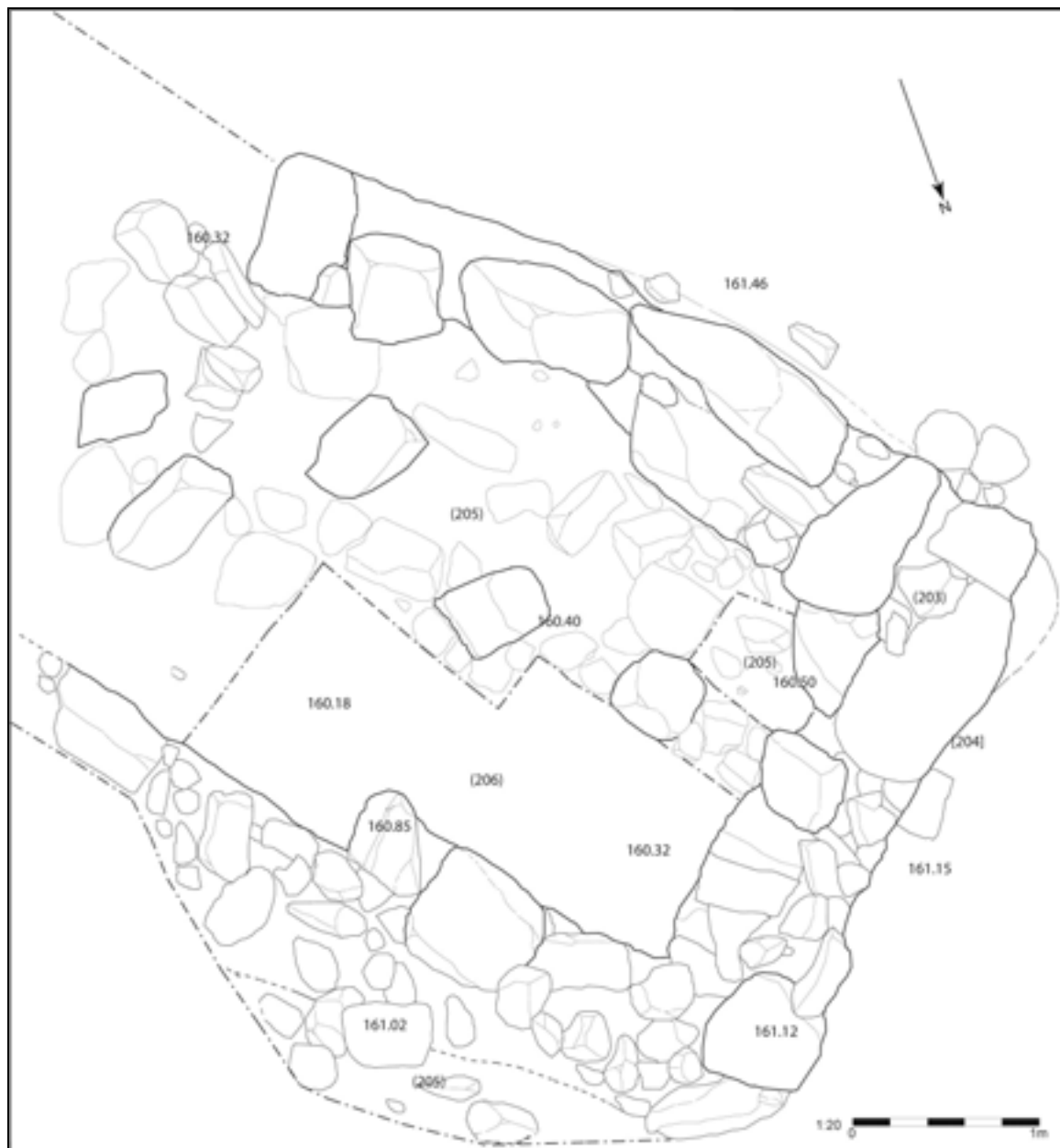


Fig. 8: Plan of masonry structure and associated rubble spread in Trench 2

The dimensions of the masonry remains, as revealed, were 3.8 (WNW-ESE) × 4.8 (NNW-SSE) × 0.95m. Whether the structure was originally open on the south-southeast side comprising a U-shaped plan or fully enclosed was undetermined if the structure was as the south-southeast extent remained unexcavated. [204] cut (206), a firm reddish-brown silty sand deposit with moderate large angular sandstone inclusions, probably a natural accumulation.



Plate 8: View looking ESE showing masonry wall (203) & rubble spread (205)

Trench 3 (NGR ST 27702 95890)

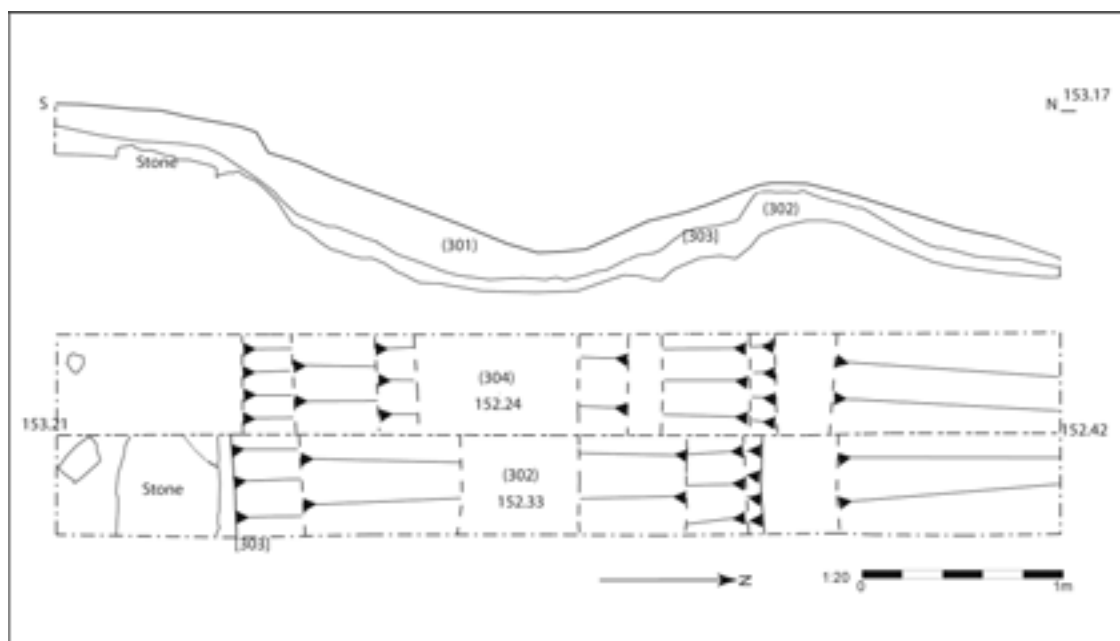


Fig.9: Plan and Section of Trench 3

Four contexts were identified in this trench, the uppermost of these being (300), a moderately compacted and friable dark brown clayey silt up to 0.26m in thickness and extending across the excavation area. A single feature [303] was identified, this being a

ditch aligned E-W and measuring $2.68 \times >1.00 \times 0.26\text{m}$ with a gradual break of slope at the top of the profile at the southern and northern extents and moderately sloping sides breaking almost imperceptibly to a flat base (**Fig.9; Plate 9**). A single fill (301) was revealed composed of soft mid orangey-brown silty clay subsoil measuring 0.24m thick. Ditch [303] cut deposit (302), a firm light orangey-brown silty clay measuring $>5.00 \times >1.00 \times 0.22\text{m}$. Natural deposition (304) was revealed beneath (302) consisting of firm light orangey-brown silty clay.



Plate 9: View looking N showing ditch [303] revealed in Trench 3

7. Fairwater Wood

A single trench was excavated on a NNE-SSW alignment, in an area of woodland adjoining the Dowlais Brook, immediately N of the playing fields of Fairwater School, measuring 4m × 3.5m (**Fig. 10**).

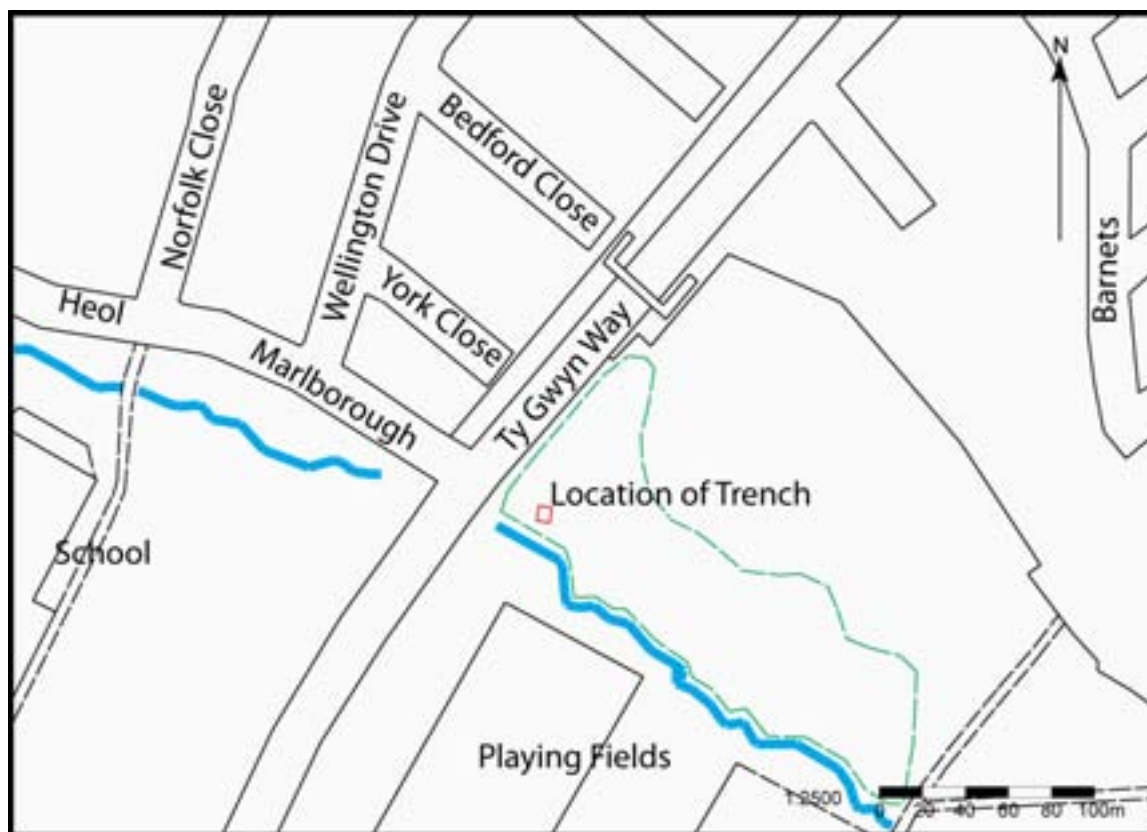


Fig. 10: Trench location plan

Results

Trench 1 (NGR ST 27355 95110)

Three contexts were revealed within this trench, the uppermost being topsoil deposit (100) consisting of a dark friable humic brown clay silt layer, its visible extent measuring >4m × >3.5m × 0.04m. This deposit was much disturbed by root and animal activity. Underlying (100) was (101), a soft, medium orangey-brown sandy silt subsoil deposit measuring >4m × >3.5m × 0.10m. This deposit contained frequent medium sized sub-angular sandstone measuring <0.4m × 0.2m × 0.15m and occasional small sub-rounded sandstone measuring on average 0.02m × 0.02m × 0.01m. Underlying (101) and extending throughout the trench was (103), a firmly compacted light orangey-brown silty clay deposit. This deposit had been greatly disturbed by root and animal activity.



Plate 10: View looking SE showing possible masonry structure (102)

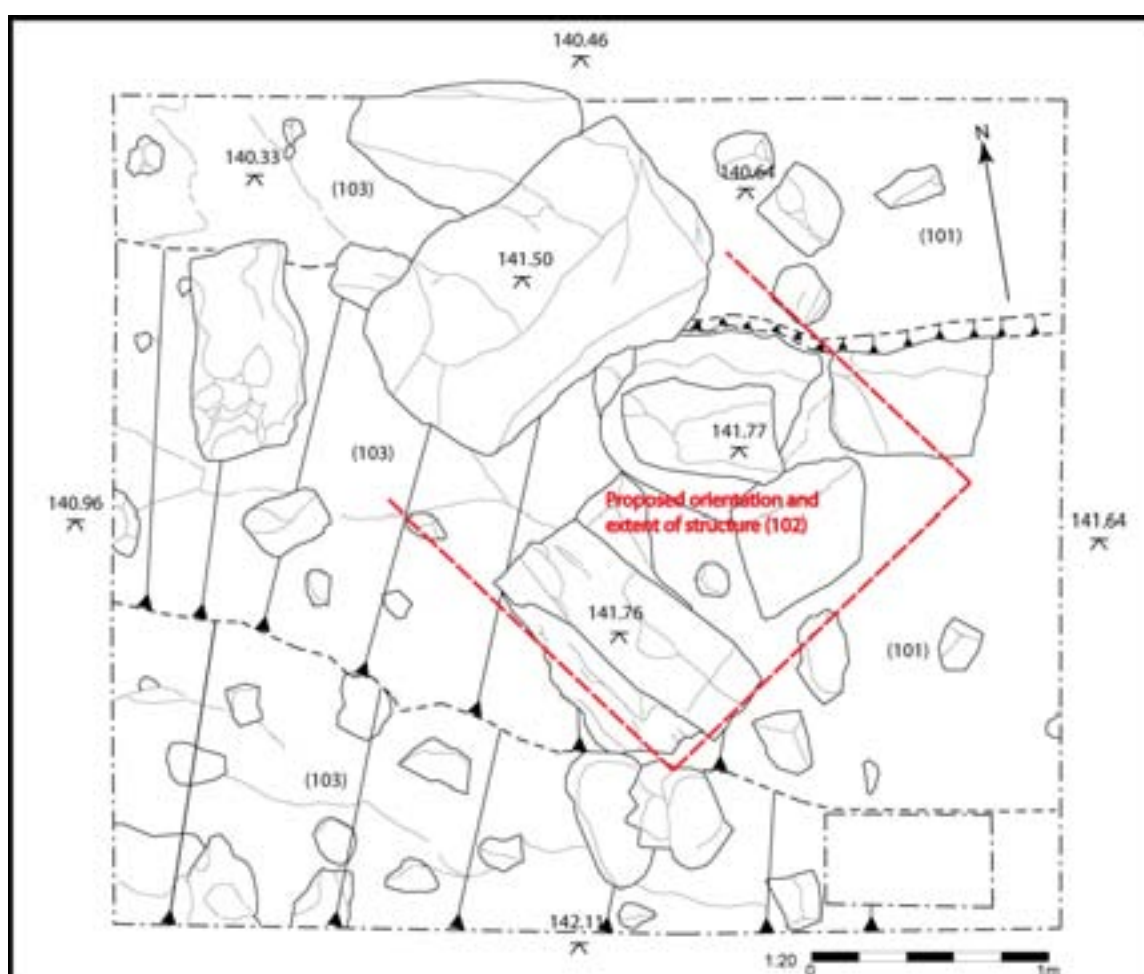


Fig. 11: Plan showing possible masonry structure as revealed in trenching

Located at the N end of the trench and overlying (103) was (102), a possible structure constructed from very large sandstone and quartz conglomerate blocks measuring on average 1.4m x 1m x 0.9m. The dimensions of the feature as found were 1.6m x 1.5m x 0.9m.

The feature had been crudely constructed using substantial unworked angular blocks. The largest of these was placed directly on top of two flanking smaller blocks. No evidence of bonding was identified; neither did there appear to be a construction cut for the feature. A possible gap or opening was located at the E end of the feature. This measured approximately 0.6m x 0.6m and appeared to be cut into the natural (103) at a depth of approximately 0.5m (**Fig. 11; Plate 10 & 11**).



Plate 11: View looking S showing possible masonry structure (102)

8. Greenmeadow Wood (Phase 2)

Two trenches were excavated, Trench 1 measured 6m x 0.5m and was oriented NE SW. Trench 2 measured 7.5m x 7.5m and was oriented N-S.

Results

Trench 1 (NGR ST 27311 95711)

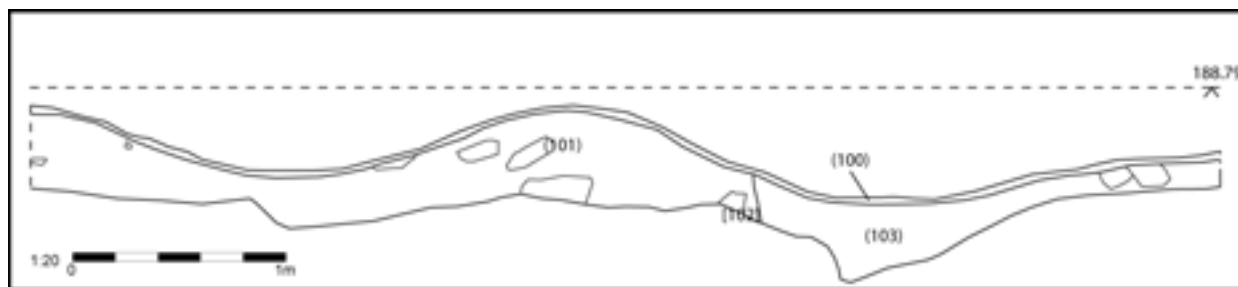


Fig. 12: NW facing section of Trench 1

Trench 1 contained five contexts. (100) comprised a soft brown humic sandy silt topsoil 0.04m in thickness. Underlying (100) was (101) a moderately compacted light orangey brown sandy clay containing roots and occasional sandstones 0.43m thick. Cutting (101) at the S extent of the trench was [102] a linear cut was partially revealed measuring >2.2m x >0.5m x 0.36m, with a sharp well defined break of slope top, a steep, sloping, stepped NE side and a gently sloping SW side and a NW-SE orientation (**Fig. 12; Plate 12**). A single undifferentiated fill (103) was identified, comprising a loosely compacted dark brown sandy silt containing frequent inclusions of humic material. Underlying (101) was (104) a firm, well compacted reddish brown silt clay with occasional sandstone and tree root disturbance, extending across the entire excavated area.



Plate 12: View looking SE showing ditch feature [102] revealed in Trench 1

Trench 2 (NGR ST 27233 95617)

Six contexts were identified within Trench 2 (**Fig. 13**). The uppermost deposit (200) consisted of a soft dark brown slightly sandy silt and humic matter containing very frequent roots and root biomass measuring up to 0.2m in thickness and extending across the excavated area. Underlying (200) was (201) consisting of a soft dark brown sandy silt/root matter containing occasional large sandstones, measuring 0.18m and extending trench wide. Underlying (201) was (203), comprising a sandstone rubble spread 3.75m x 2.2m and approximately 0.2m thick located towards the S extent of the excavated area.



Fig. 13: Plan showing features revealed in Trench 2

Underlying (203) was (202) a moderately compacted pale yellowish sandy/sandy clay containing distinct inclusions of greyish sand/charcoal and organic flecking and heavily disturbed by tree root activity. This deposit extended 2.85m x >5.5m to a maximum depth of 0.13m within (204) a possible structure, comprising three courses of irregularly coursed, unworked sandstones of varying size (sample measurement 1.5m x 1.3m x 0.25m), dry or possibly earth bonded (**Plate 13**). The structure appeared to be oriented E-W and covered an area measuring approximately 7.5m x 7.5m. The N extent of the structure appeared to have been built into the terrace bank immediately to the N. An underlying deposit (205) comprising a well compacted light reddish orange sand/sandstone/degraded sandstone measuring >5m x >0.5m x >0.12m was identified as natural glaciofluvial deposition.



Plate 13: View looking E showing rubble spread and possible masonry structure in Trench 2

9. Site Specific Discussion

Greenmeadow Wood (Phase 1)

Trench 1 revealed a ditch [107] and a section of dry-stone masonry walling (108) constructed from very large sandstone and quartz conglomerate blocks. Further sections of walling were revealed in Trench 2 and Trench 3, these comprising masonry blocks of comparable dimensions to those identified in Trench 1 and exhibiting a similar method of construction. It was evident that the sections of wall revealed in all three trenches formed part of the same boundary alignment. The wall was orientated NE-SW in Trench 1 turning to run on an E-W alignment, as revealed in Trench 2 and Trench 3. Its precise function is unknown, although it probably served as a boundary wall relating to an earlier pattern of enclosure not indicated on either the Llantarnam tithe map or the OS 1st edition map (**Plate 14**). The long, somewhat meandering course of the wall suggests an

early date, while the substantial nature of the materials used suggests that it was a boundary feature of some importance and that considerable effort was expended in its construction and maintenance. No obvious association could be discerned between the masonry walling and the E-W aligned ditch feature [107] observed at the N end of the trench.

Trench 2 revealed a possible cobbled pathway (203) aligned N-S that exhibited evidence of repair, probably necessitated by prolonged or very intensive use, as suggested by the presence of larger sub-angular stones that appeared to fill voids in the cobbling. A depression revealed in the centre of the trench further suggested heavy wear. Although a stone had been removed from the south face of the wall (204), no clear evidence of robbing was visible and it is likely that the structure terminated at this point to create an opening, which would also explain the presence of cobbling.

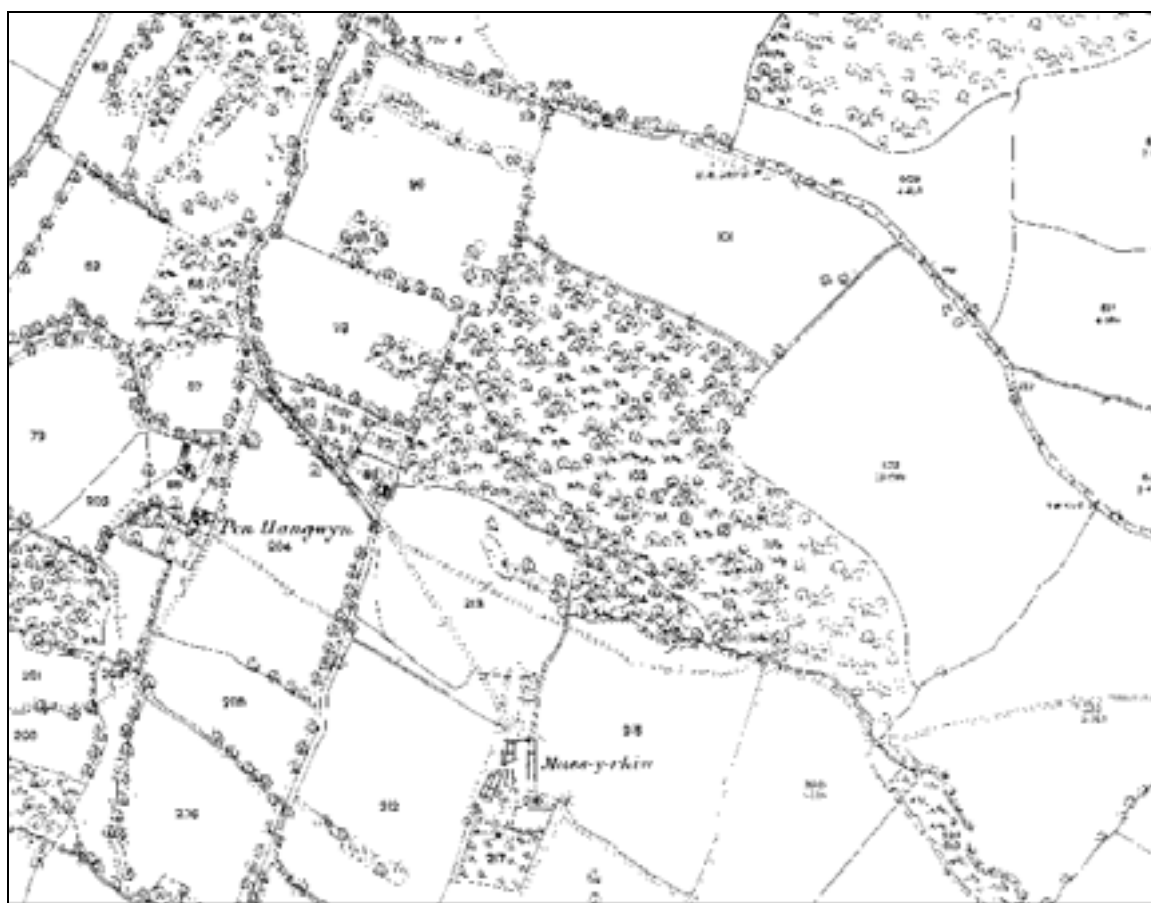


Plate 14: Extract from OS 1st edition 25 inch map of 1882 showing the boundaries of Greenmeadow Wood
(Reproduced by courtesy of the National Library of Wales)

The absence of datable *in situ* finds has meant that no absolute date for the construction of the wall can be obtained. Surveys of the manor of Llantarnam, dating back to 1634, have been examined, however no reference to this boundary feature has been identified from these documents. The earliest detailed map of the area, an Ordnance Survey drawing dated 1813, shows no field boundary on this alignment; however, comparison between this map and the tithe survey of 1843 indicates that the extent of the wooded area changed considerably between those dates.



Plate 15: Extract from OS surveyor's drawing by C. Budgen (1813) showing tracts of woodland interspersed with large areas of open ground in the locality of Greenmeadow, Maes-y-rhiw and Troed-y-rhiw Farms
(Reproduced by courtesy of the National Library of Wales)

The 1813 map (**Plate 15**) shows the wooded area as consisting of a rectilinear block lying to the S of an unnamed stream, a tributary of the Dowlais Brook (which still survives today), with the area to the N of the stream depicted as open ground. The 1843 tithe survey (**Plate 16**) presents a significantly changed picture; the wooded area S of the stream is shown as divided into two enclosures, belonging to Maes-y-rhiw Farm, while the area N of the stream is shown as occupied by an L-shaped block of coppice woodland, the boundaries of which largely correspond to present-day Greenmeadow Woods.

The cartographic evidence (or lack of it) would appear to suggest that the wall represents a substantial relict field boundary, which had probably fallen out of use some time before 1813, and certainly by no later than 1843, when a tract of coppice woodland (its boundaries relating to present day Greenmeadow Woods) had been established. It is highly likely that this boundary relates to a period when this area was open ground, either under pasture or arable cultivation (the former being the more likely). The date of this relict field boundary remains uncertain although a possible medieval date can be suggested.



Plate 16: Extract from the Llantarnam tithe map of 1843 showing the boundaries of the wooded area to the N of Maes-y-rhiw (present day Greenmeadow Woods)
(Reproduced by courtesy of the National Library of Wales)

Thornhill Woods

Trench 1 revealed the remains of a dry stone wall (101) constructed of very large undressed sandstone and quartz conglomerate blocks with a rubble and earth core. The wall was orientated N-S within the trench, but appeared to curve to the E to the N and S of the trench. A rubble scatter (104) extended across the entire area to the E down a slope presumably this was material that had fallen or possibly been deliberately pulled down to level the wall. The precise function of this feature is unknown. It is possible that it served as a boundary or enclosure wall and may have been associated with the possible masonry structure further to the S, which was investigated in Trench 2.

Trench 2 revealed a possible masonry structure (203) oriented NNW–SSE and crudely constructed from large undressed sandstone and quartz conglomerate blocks. The excavations did not reveal if the structure was ‘U’ shaped or fully enclosed as the SSE extent of the structure extended beyond the excavated area. The date and function of the structure is difficult to establish, particularly in view of the fact that no artefactual evidence was found in association with the structure. The form and scale of the

structure could suggest a small cottage, possibly a shepherd's dwelling, although no finds or deposits indicative of domestic occupation were identified. An alternative interpretation is that the structure could have been a sheepfold, suggested by the complete absence of evidence for domestic occupation.

The earliest surviving map of the area, the OS surveyors drawing of 1813, shows no indication of either the masonry building in this location, or the alignment of the boundary wall identified in Trench 1. No evidence for any such features appears on the Llanfrechfa tithe map or later OS mapping, which suggests that these structural remains almost certainly predate the 1813 map. It is possible that the masonry structure in Trench 2 and the wall remains in Trench 1 represent part of a small upland farmstead, which was probably abandoned some time before the existing coppice woodland was established in the 19th century. It has not been possible, based on the available evidence, to establish whether there was indeed a farmstead in this location and when it might have been occupied, although its apparent absence from the documentary record suggests that it could be of medieval date.



Plate 17: Extract from Llanfrechfa tithe map of 1840 showing the extent of the wooded area to the E of Troed-y-rhiw Farm (present day Thornhill Woods)
(Reproduced by courtesy of the National Library of Wales)

Comparison between the 1813 map and the Llanfrechfa tithe map of 1840 (**Plate 17**) indicates that the extent of the woodland in this area underwent significant change between these two dates. The wooded area is depicted on the 1813 map as being an inverted 'C' shape, lying to the E of Troed-y-Rhiw Farm and bounded by streams to the N and S. By about 1840, however, this extensive tract of woodland had been broken up into two pieces with the central portion now occupied by a large, rectilinear pasture

enclosure. This enclosure appears to have formed one of several rectilinear pasture and arable fields lying to the E of Troed-y-Rhiw Farm. The Llanfrehfa tithe map also shows a roughly pentagonal enclosure cut out from the eastern side of the woodland, which formed part of an irregularly shaped arable field belonging to Greenmeadow Farm.

The OS 1st edition map of 1882 marks the surviving tract of woodland (the boundaries of which roughly equate to present day Thornhill Woods) as 'Craig Fawr' (**Plate 18**). This name, which does not appear on earlier maps of the area, appears to be associated with the farmhouse to the W (formerly Troed-y-rhiw Farm), which appears to have been rebuilt and renamed as Craig House at some point between 1840 and 1882. The ditch feature identified in Trench 3 appears to be located on to the S boundary of the coppice woodland as shown on the 1840 tithe map and the OS 1st edition map of 1882, which suggests that this represents a boundary ditch of probable post-medieval date.

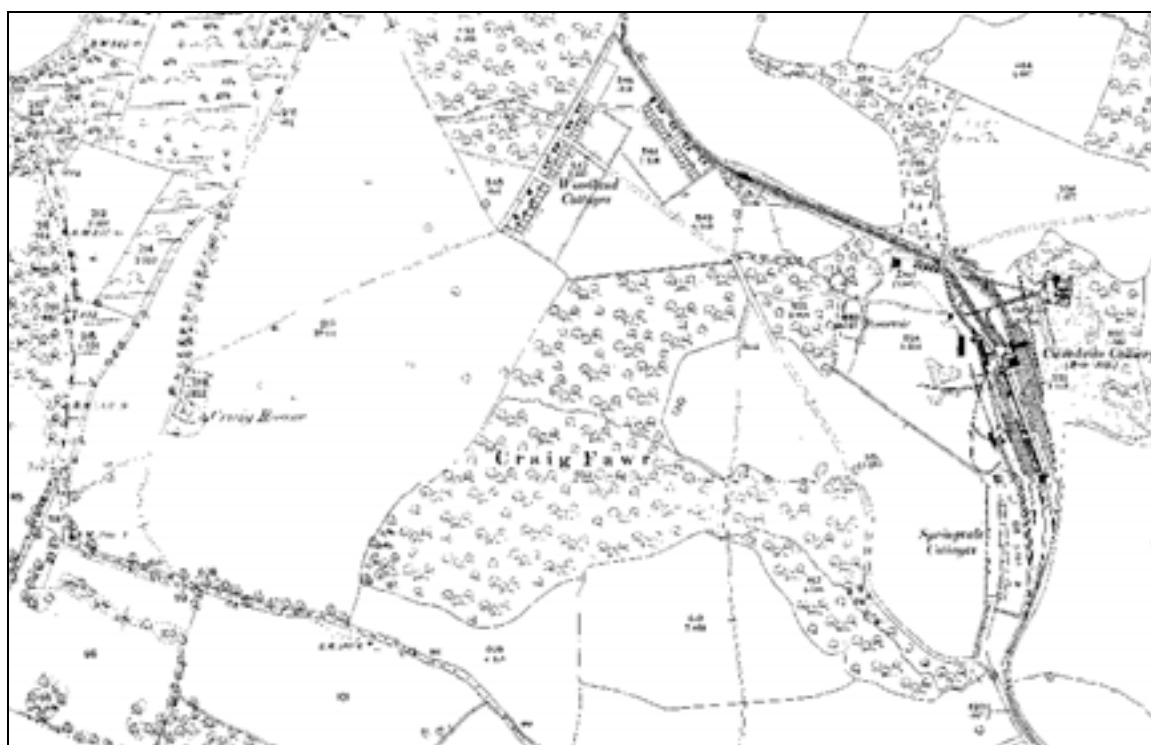


Plate 18: Extract from the OS 1st edition 25 inch map of 1882 showing the extent of Thornhill Woods (then marked as Craig Fawr)

(Reproduced by courtesy of the National Library of Wales)

Fairwater Wood

The objective of the trenching in this area was to investigate a possible masonry structure (102), situated in woodland immediately N of the Dowlais Brook, which was crudely constructed from very large unworked sandstone and quartz conglomerate blocks. The feature had apparently recently been damaged by a fallen tree, which seemed to have dislodged a large horizontal capstone formerly resting across two vertical orthostats, which gave the structure the superficial appearance of a chambered tomb. However, the excavation revealed no traces of buried human remains, or evidence for a burial mound (which one might expect to find if the structure was indeed a chambered tomb) although it is possible that damage to the structure through robbing might have removed any traces of such remains.

The available documentary and cartographic evidence has likewise shed little light on the date or function of this feature. None of the historic maps of the area (the earliest dating back to 1813) appears to mark its location and the boundary descriptions given in surveys of the manor of Llantarnam (dating back to 1634) are likewise silent. In 1813, the area to the N of the Dowlais Brook appear to have been open ground, with a tract of enclosed woodland, probably coppice, lying to the S of the brook, its southern and eastern boundary marked by a meandering lane leading roughly NW-SE from Penllangwyn Farm towards Cwmbran (its course partly preserved by present day Graig Road). By 1843, the woodland appears to have been extended to the N of the Dowlais Brook as shown on the Llantarnam tithe map. The tithe apportionment records the woodland as 'coppice wood' belonging to Maes y Rhiw Farm and it is specifically marked on the OS 1st edition map of 1882 (and subsequent OS mapping) as Maes y Rhiw Wood (**Plate 19**).

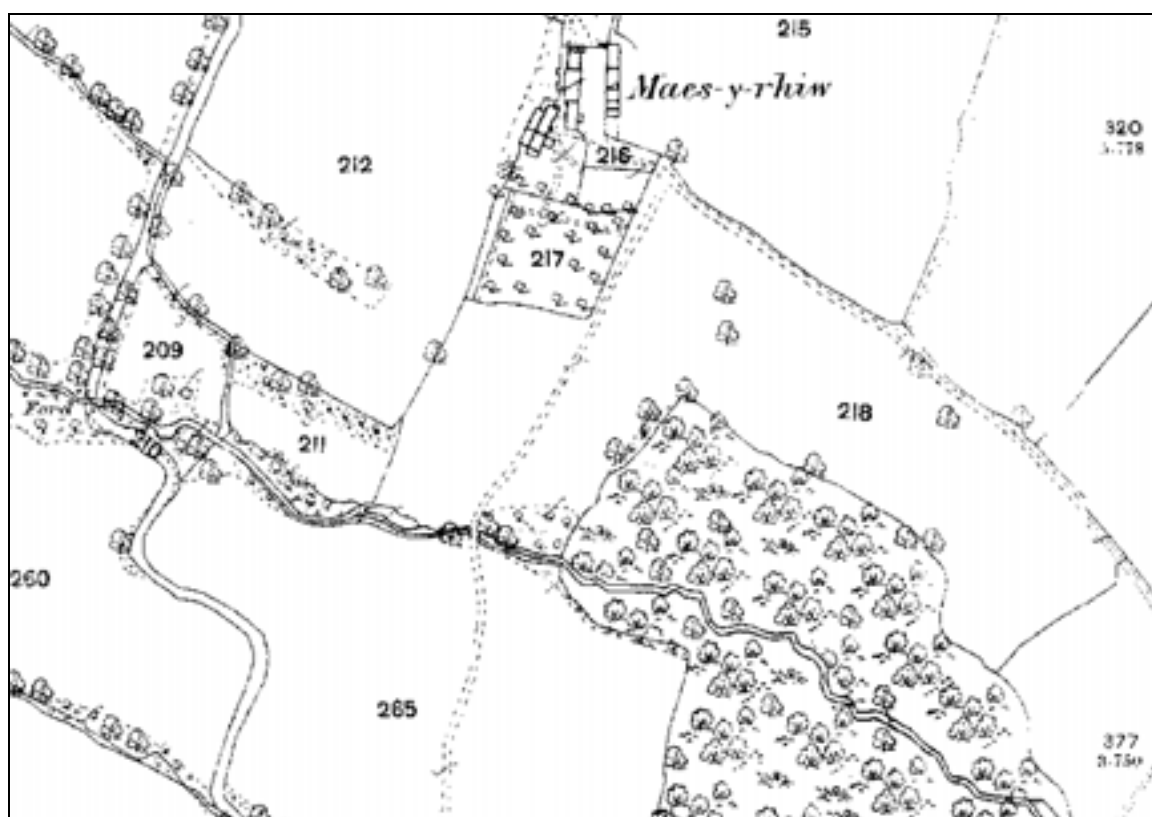


Plate 19: Extract from the OS 1st edition 25 inch map of 1882 showing the woodland S of Maes-y-Rhiw Farm flanking the Dowlais Brook (present day Fairwater Woods)
(Reproduced by courtesy of the National Library of Wales)

Local antiquarian histories (the most detailed being Bradney's account) similarly fail to mention the presence of this 'cairn'; although this cannot be taken as proof that the masonry structure is of comparatively recent origin, when taken together with the negative archaeological and documentary evidence, it does raise suspicions about the antiquity of this feature.

Greenmeadow Wood (Phase 2)

The substantial ditch [102] oriented NW-SE investigated in Trench 1 may be identified as a post-medieval boundary feature marking the N boundary of the coppice woodland which is first depicted on the Llantarnam tithe map of 1843. It is not shown on the OS



surveyor's drawing of 1813, at which time this area appears to have been open ground, with the woodland lying to the S of the stream which still runs NW-SE through present day Greenmeadow Woods. It would appear that the present area of woodland was established at some time between 1813 and 1843.

Trench 2 investigated the remains of a possible structure [204] constructed on a terrace in the NW extent of Greenmeadow Woods. This was constructed from large unworked sandstones, three possible foundation courses were excavated, possibly representing the NW extent of a structure, which appeared to have been built into the terrace bank immediately to the N. There is some evidence of deliberate demolition, represented by a distinct area of smaller stones and rubble (203) in the S of the excavated area within the foundations. A level sand/sandy clay deposit (202) may have formed an occupation surface within the structure. With the exception of a single, heavily corroded undiagnostic Fe object recovered from this deposit, no artefactual evidence for occupation was identified within the excavation trench.

Due to the limited extent of the excavation trench, the heavily denuded condition of the visible masonry remains and the dearth of artefactual evidence, it is difficult to draw detailed conclusions about the date and function of this structure. The form and size of the structure, and the fact that it appears to be cut into the terrace, possibly suggests a 'platform house', a type of dwelling commonly built in the Welsh uplands during the medieval and early post-medieval periods. No clear evidence for domestic activity was found on the site, which raises the possibility that the structure was only utilised for periodic, seasonal habitation. On the other hand, it may have had an ancillary function, possibly as a fold for livestock.

The structure is not marked on the OS surveyors drawing of 1813, the Llantarnam tithe map of 1843 or later Ordnance Survey mapping. Neither is it explicitly identified in 17th-early 18th century surveys of the manor of Llantarnam (dating from 1634, 1660, 1678 and 1704), although the fact that these surveys often refer to landholdings simply by the tenant's name, rather than a place name, means that there are a number of farmsteads for which the locations cannot be securely identified. A possible medieval date may be suggested for the structure although further investigation would be necessary to confirm this provisional dating.

10. Conclusions

Excepting the boundary ditches identified in Thornhill Wood (Trench 3) and Greenmeadow Wood (Phase 2 Trench 1), which can be demonstrated to be of early 19th century date, associated with the coppice woodland in both areas, the other features investigated appear to pre-date the existing landscape pattern of managed, coppice woodland which was established in its present form by the middle decades of the 19th century.

These consist of the following:

1/ The three sections of substantial dry stone walling investigated in Greenmeadow Woods (Phase 1), which appear to represent parts of a long, meandering relict field boundary disassociated with the surrounding pattern of post-medieval enclosure, possibly of medieval date, although an earlier origin cannot be discounted.



2/ The boundary wall and associated masonry structure to the S identified in Thornhill Woods, which provisionally appear to form part of a complex of structures, possibly representing an upland farmstead of medieval or early post-medieval date.

3/ The supposed 'cairn' structure located immediately N of the Dowlais Brook, which does not appear on any historic mapping of the area. This possibly suggests an early date although the excavation revealed no finds or deposits indicative of burial activity or any associated domestic occupation, which casts significant doubt on the antiquity of this feature.

4/ The denuded remains of a masonry structure built into a terrace in Greenmeadow Woods, provisionally interpreted as representing a platform house, a type of dwelling characteristically found in the Welsh uplands which is generally dated to the medieval or early post-medieval periods.

Due to the almost complete absence of artefactual evidence, it is extremely difficult to assign a date to these features. None of these features appears on historic mapping of the area (dating back to c.1810) and documentary references are similarly lacking. These features appear not to be associated with the tracts of woodland in which they are situated, all of which, in their present form, can be described as coppice woods of 18th-19th century origin.

Neither does there appear to be clear evidence of an association between these features and the pattern of enclosure outside the woodland tracts, which appears largely to be of post-medieval date. Consequently, it may be inferred that these features relate to a markedly different pattern of land use and enclosure, predating the establishment of the existing tracts of post-medieval woodland.

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OS 3rd edition 6-inch map Monmouthshire 23 SE, 23 SW (1922)

OS 4th edition 6-inch map Monmouthshire 23 SE, 23 SW (1954)



13. Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Context Register (Greenmeadow Wood)

Trench 1

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION
(101)	Loose dark brown slightly clayey silt/humic deposit, c.25% pebbles, c.25% root disturbance. >7.3m x >2m x 0.22m. Overlies (102)
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Topsoil</i>
(102)	Soft light orangey-brown clayey silt, frequent medium rounded quartz pebbles, moderate medium/large angular and sub-rounded sandstone fragments, root disturbance throughout. >7.3m x >2m x 0.06m. Underlies (101) Overlies (109)
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Subsoil</i>
(103)	Masonry structure. Aligned NE-SW with possible return aligned N-S. Construction of very large unworked sandstone and quartz conglomerate blocks (average) 0.5m x 0.3m x 0.5m. Blocks used as facing stones, random coursing with rubble and earth core. >2.4m x 1.2m x 0.63m. Underlies (105). Fills [104]
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Poorly constructed section of dry-stone walling</i>
[104]	Linear cut. Aligned NE-SW. 1.2m x >1.2m x 0.08m. Break of slope (top) sharp/irregular, sides irregular, base not revealed. Filled by (103). Cuts (108)
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Apparent evidence of wall cut</i>
(105)	Soft to moderately compacted mid orange silty sand, patches of sandstone/conglomerate. >1m x 3.35m x 0.36m. Overlies (103). Cut by [107]
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Subsoil</i>
(106)	Loose to moderately compacted mid reddish-brown sandy silty clay. Measures >2m x >0.7m x 0.27m. Fills [107]
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Fill of ditch [107]</i>
[107]	Linear cut. Aligned roughly E-W. Measures >2m x >0.7m x 0.27m. Break of slope (top) sharp, sides moderately sloping, break of slope (base) gradual, base flat. Cuts (105). Filled by (106).
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Ditch cut</i>
(108)	Soft light orangey-brown sandy silt. Measures >7.3m x >1m x >0.09m. Underlies (109) Cut by [104]
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Natural</i>
(109)	Moderately compacted orangey-brown silty sand. Measures >1m x >1m x 0.24m. Underlies (102) Overlies (108)
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Subsoil</i>

Trench 2

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION
(200)	Friable to soft dark brown, slightly clayey humic silt. Measures >4.3m x >1m x 0.05m. Overlies (201)
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Topsoil</i>
(201)	Soft mid greyish-brown sandy silt. Measures >4.3m x >1m x 0.03m. Underlies (200). Overlies (202)
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Subsoil</i>
(202)	Soft light orangey-brown sandy silt. Measures >3.7m x >1m x 0.22m. Underlies (201). Overlies (203) (204)
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Subsoil</i>



(203)	Cobbled area. Aligned N-S. Measures approximately >1m (N-S) × 1m (E-W) × 0.2m. Underlies (202). Overlies (205)
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Probable cobbled surface</i>
(204)	Masonry structure. Aligned E-W. Construction of very large unworked sandstone and quartz conglomerate blocks measuring (average) 0.5m × 0.3m × 0.5m. Blocks used as facing stones, random coursing with rubble and earth core. >2.4m × 1.2m × 0.63m. Underlies (202). Overlies (205)
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Poorly constructed section of dry-stone walling</i>
(205)	Soft light orangey-brown sandy silt, extending trench-wide to unknown depth. Underlies (203) (204)
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Natural silt</i>

Trench 3

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION
(301)	Moderately compact dark blackish-brown sandy silt. >0.63m × >1m × 0.12m. Overlies (302)
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Topsoil</i>
(302)	Soft/gritty mid orangey-brown sandy clay. >0.6m × >1m × 0.22m. Underlies (301). Overlies (305)
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Subsoil</i>
(303)	Moderately compacted dark blackish-brown sandy silt. Measures >0.8m × >1m × 0.12m. Overlies (304)
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Topsoil</i>
(304)	Soft light orangey-brown sandy clay. Measures >0.8m × >1m × 0.22m. Underlies (303). Overlies (305)
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Subsoil</i>
(305)	Masonry structure. Aligned E-W. Construction of very large unworked sandstone and quartz conglomerate blocks measuring (average) 0.5m × 0.3m × 0.5m. Blocks used as facing stones, random coursing with rubble and earth core. 1.22m × >1m × 0.7m. Underlies (302), (304). Fills [307]
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Poorly constructed section of dry-stone walling</i>
(306)	Soft light orangey-brown sandy silt. Measures >2.75m × >1m × >0.14m. Cut by [307]
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Natural silt</i>
[307]	Linear cut. Aligned E-W. Measures 1.22m × >1m × 0.14m. Sharp break of slope (top), sides vertical. Cuts (306). Filled by (305)
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Cut of wall (305)</i>

APPENDIX 2: Context Register (Thornhill Woods)

Trench1

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION
(100)	Friable dark greyish-brown clay silt, frequent small angular sandstone fragments >4.5 × >3 × 0.05m. Overlies (104)
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Topsoil</i>
(101)	Masonry structure. Aligned N-S. Materials: very large sandstone and quartz conglomerate blocks measuring (average) 700 × 700 × 400mm and measuring 4.5 × 1.25 × 0.4m. Fills [103]. Underlies (104).
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Stone wall</i>
(102)	Firm mid reddish-brown silt sand >1.2m × >1.2m × >0.04m. Cut by [103].



INTERPRETATION:	<i>Natural silt sand</i>
[103]	Linear cut. Aligned N-S. Measures 4.5 × 1.25 × 0.4m. Break of slope (top) sharp, sides vertical. Filled by (101). Cuts (102)
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Cut for stone wall (101)</i>
(104)	Loose masonry rubble. Measures >4.5 × >3.4 × 0.2m Underlies (100). Overlies (101)
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Rubble scatter</i>

Trench 2

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION
(201)	Friable mid brown clayey silt, frequent rooting activity, moderate small stones and pebbles >5m × >5m × 0.2m Overlies (202)
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Topsoil deposit</i>
(202)	Loose light reddish-brown silty sand, frequent root activity and occasional sandstone >5m × >5m × 0.15m Underlies (101). Overlies (205)
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Subsoil deposit</i>
(203)	Masonry structure. Aligned NNW-SSE/NNE-SSW. Materials: sandstone conglomerate, unworked, uncoursed, dry- or earth-bonded. 4.8 × 3.8 × 0.95m × 0.5m Underlies (205). fills [204]
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Building or enclosure of masonry construction</i>
[204]	Cut. U-shaped in plan. Aligned NNW-SSE/NNE-SSW. 4.8 × 3.8 × 0.95 × 0.25m. Break of slope (top) sharp, sides vertical. filled by (203) cuts (206)
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Cut for masonry structure (203)</i>
(205)	Sandstone and conglomerate unworked masonry of varied size >5 × >5 × 0.15m. Underlies (202) Overlies (203)
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Rubble demolition spread</i>
(206)	Firm mid reddish-brown silty sand moderate large sandstones >5m × >5m × >0.2m Cut by [204]
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Natural soil accumulation</i>

Trench 3

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION
(300)	Moderately compacted dark brown clayey silt. >5m × >1m × 0.26m. Overlies (301)
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Topsoil</i>
(301)	Soft mid orangey-brown silty clay. >5m × >1m × 0.24m. Fills [303] Underlies (300)
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Fill of ditch [303]</i>
(302)	Firm light orangey-brown silty clay. Measures >5m × >1m × 0.22m Cut by [303]. Overlies (304)
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Clay layer</i>
[303]	Linear cut 2.68m × >1m × 0.26m break of slope top gentle, sides, moderately sloping breaking of slope base imperceptible, base flat oriented E-W Cuts (302). Filled by (301)
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Linear cut for boundary ditch</i>
(304)	Firm light orangey-brown silty clay. >5m × >0.5m. Underlies (302)
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Natural soil accumulation</i>



APPENDIX 3: Context Register (Fairwater Woods)

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION
(100)	Friable dark brown humic clay silt. >4m x >3.5m x 0.04m Overlies (101)
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Topsoil</i>
(101)	Soft mid orangey sandy silt with frequent medium sized sub angular sandstones occasional small sub angular sandstones. >4m x >3.5m x 0.1m Underlies (100) Overlies (102)
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Subsoil</i>
(102)	Rectangular structure sandstone and conglomerate NW-SE orientation size of materials varies typical size 1.4m x 1m x 0.9m unworked, drystone 1.6m x 1.5m x 0.9m Underlies (102) Overlies (103)
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Poorly defined structure of uncertain date and function</i>
(103)	Well compacted light orangey brown silty clay >4m x >3.5m. Underlies (102)
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Natural soils</i>

APPENDIX 4: Context Register (Greenmeadow Wood Phase 2)

Trench 1

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION
(100)	Soft dark brown humic sandy silt 0.04m x >0.5m x >6m Overlies (103)
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Topsoil</i>
(101)	Moderately compacted light orangey brown sandy clay occasional roots and sandstone 0.43m x >3.8m x >0.5m Cut by [102] Overlies (104)
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Subsoil</i>
[102]	Linear cut >2.2m x 0.5m x 0.36m break of top sharp NE side, side sharp-vertical stepped NE side, break of slope base sharp NE side, base slopes to NE, oriented NW-SE Cuts (101) Filled by (103)
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Cut of post medieval ditch</i>
(103)	Loosely compacted dark brown sandy silt containing frequent humic material 0.36m x >2.2m x >0.5m Fills [102]
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Fill of ditch [102]</i>
(104)	Firm well compacted reddish brown silt clay with occasional sandstones and root disturbance, >6m x >0.5m Underlies (101)
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Natural clay deposit</i>

Trench 2

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION
(200)	Soft dark brown slightly sandy silt and humic material 0.2m x >7.5m x >4.7m Overlies (201)
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Topsoil</i>
(201)	Soft dark brown sandy silt and roots and occasional large stones 0.18m x >7.5m x >4.7m Underlies (200) Overlies (203)
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Topsoil</i>
(202)	Moderately compacted pale yellow greyish sandy clay/sand charcoal organic flecking and roots 0.13m x 2.85m x >5.5m Underlies (203) Overlies (204)



<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Possible surface deposit within structure (204)</i>
(203)	Loose medium to large sandstones 0.2m x 3.75m x 2.2m Underlies (201) Overlies (202)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Rubble spread visible within structure (204)</i>
(204)	Rectangular structure, aligned E-W sandstone, materials vary in size typical size 1.5m x 1.3m x 0.25m, unworked, single course, earth or dry bonded >7.5m x >7.5m Underlies (202) Overlies (205)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Crudely constructed building or enclosure</i>
(205)	Well compacted light reddish orange sand/sandstone/degraded sandstone >0.12m x >5m x 0.5m Underlies (204)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Natural gravels</i>



Document Control

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