# LAND NORTH OF THE VILLAGE GREEN, TEMPLETON, PEMBROKESHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS 2014 - 2018

April 2021





Prepared by DAT Archaeological Services for: G D Harries and Sons





archaeological trust

#### **DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST**

REPORT NO. 2019-49 PROJECT RECORD NO. 107550

April 2021



# LAND NORTH OF THE VILLAGE GREEN, TEMPLETON, PEMBROKESHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS 2014 - 2018

By

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2014 - 2018		
Client	G D Harries and Sons Ltd	
Event Record No	107550	
Report No	2019-49	
Project Code	FS16-017	
Report Prepared By	C Enright, F Murphy, H Wilson	
Fieldwork Undertaken By	DAT Archaeological Services	
Illustrated By	H Wilson	

### LAND NORTH OF THE VILLAGE GREEN, TEMPLETON, PEMBROKESHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

**Report Approved By** 

F Murphy

Rev Number	Description	Undertaken	Approved	Date
_V1	Final	HW	FM	15/04/2021

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## LAND NORTH OF THE VILLAGE GREEN, TEMPLETON, PEMBROKESHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

#### 2014 - 2018

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Between 2014 and 2018 DAT Archaeological Services undertook a series of watching briefs, two archaeological excavations and a building survey on land now occupied by Knights Court residential development, Templeton, Pembrokeshire.

Apart from recording the remains of numerous undated gullies, terraces and possible structural features, the archaeological investigations also revealed the extent of a medieval defensive, rock-cut ditch and a prehistoric ring-ditch with probable funerary and ritual associations.

#### **CRYNODEB GWEITHREDOL**

Rhwng 2014 a 2018 cynhaliodd Gwasanaethau Archeolegol YAD gyfres o frîffiau gwylio, dau gloddiad archeolegol ac arolwg adeiladau ar dir sydd bellach yn cael ei ddefnyddio gan ddatblygiad preswyl Knights Court, Tredeml, Sir Benfro.

Ar wahân i gofnodi gweddillion nifer o gylïau, terasau a nodweddion strwythurol posibl heb ddyddiad, datgelodd yr ymchwiliadau archeolegol hyd a lled ffos amddiffynnol ganoloesol, toriad creigiau a ffos gron cynhanesyddol gyda chysylltiadau angladdol a defodol tebygol.

#### LAND NORTH OF THE VILLAGE GREEN, TEMPLETON, PEMBROKESHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

#### 2014 - 2018

#### SUMMARY

DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Jebb Homes and latterly, G D Harries and Sons, to undertake a series of archaeological investigations on land north of the village green, Templeton, Pembrokeshire (NGR SN 1120 1155), during residential development known as Knights Court.

The development area lies to the southeast of Sentence Castle (PE 110; PRN 3750) a medieval Motte castle and Scheduled Monument. The castle is thought to have been established in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, and would have been a focal point for an extended settlement in the vicinity which has evolved into the village of Templeton as it exists today. The medieval street plan of the village is partially fossilised in the current village layout, comprising properties along the main north-south road, with rectangular plot boundaries running east-west from the road line. The 1840 Tithe map shows the development area divided into three separate fields but, by the publication of the 1889 map, internal hedge-banks have been removed, producing a single field.

The name of Templeton is derived from the 'Templar's Town' based on the establishment of a Knights Templar Hospice on the site of the present church (to the east of the site area), for which there is documentary evidence. Given the site's location it was considered that there was potential for important archaeological remains to survive within the development area that could be adversely affected by the ground works, and thus a requirement for pre-determination evaluation was placed on the development proposals.

In 2010 the site was subjected to geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation which indicated the presence of significant archaeological remains within the development area, including a large medieval ditch running up the eastern half of the site, and a prehistoric ring ditch located in the SW quarter.

Further archaeological works targeting features identified during the geophysical survey and evaluation were carried out between 2014 and 2018. These works included a building survey in October 2014 (Area A); a series of watching briefs during ground reduction works in the NE quadrant of the site in November and December 2014 (Area B); an excavation at House Plot 5 (Area C) in January 2015; an excavation at House Plots 11 and 12 (Area D) in September 2017, and a watching brief during ground reduction at House Plot 16 (Area E) in June 2018.

The watching briefs concentrated mainly on the frontage, access road and parking areas in the eastern half of the development. Apart from the large medieval ditch which crossed the access road, a smaller ditch, gullies, terraces and possible structural features were also recorded. These were difficult to date and could be either medieval or postmedieval in origin.

Excavation within Area A, targeting the large ditch, revealed a deep, steep-sided, rockcut ditch with a seemingly defensive function that was probably associated with nearby Sentence Castle. Also recorded during this excavation was a series of linear features possibly associated with a building structure.

The excavation targeting the ring ditch in Area D uncovered a c.7m diameter, unbroken, circular ditch. No evidence for a burial or artefacts was found associated with the ring ditch and no indication of mound material was identified. Radiocarbon dates indicate that the ditch silted during the period 300-200 BC. A series of gullies, some crossing the ring ditch were also revealed during the excavation.

*No archaeological features or deposits were identified during the watching brief in Area E in the NW corner of the site.* 

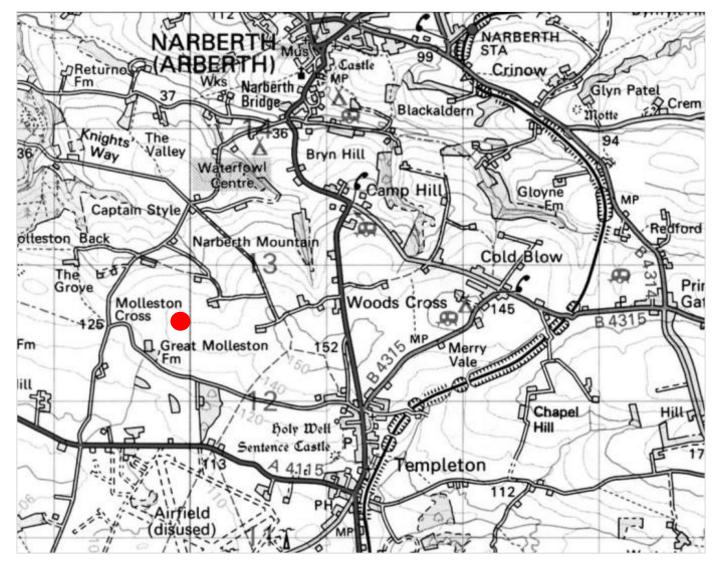
#### 1. INTRODUCTION

#### **1.1 Project Commission**

- 1.1.1 DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned initially by Jebb Homes and subsequently by G D Harries and Sons, to undertake a series of archaeological investigations during the proposed residential development on land north of the Village Green (Knights Court), Templeton, Pembrokeshire (NGR SN 1120 1155; Figures 1 and 2). The development comprised the construction of 22 residential units covering the northern and western parts of the site area.
- 1.1.2 Previously the site had been subjected to geophysical survey (Poucher 2010) and trial trench evaluation (Meek 2010) which indicated the presence of significant archaeological remains within the proposed development area.
- 1.1.3 Following discussions with the archaeological advisors to Pembrokeshire County Council further archaeological works were recommended including targeted excavation and watching brief. The proposed works at the site which required archaeological mitigation were summarised as follows:
  - Excavation of an access road from the main road to the east of the site;
  - Any areas where a topsoil strip will be required, including any site set-up strips for contractor's compounds or storage areas;
  - Lowering of ground levels;
  - Excavation of foundation trenches and services, where they might affect archaeological remains;
  - Ground reduction at House Plots 11 and 12 which lie directly on the site of the known ring ditch and House Plot 5 beneath which passes the projected line of the large boundary ditch identified during the evaluations.
- 1.1.4 These areas were selected for archaeological mitigation because of the enhanced potential for ground works to expose, damage or destroy archaeological remains.

#### **1.2 Scope of Project**

- 1.2.1 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological mitigation was prepared by DAT Archaeological Services prior to the commencement of works (Appendix D). The WSI outlined methodologies for:
  - Provision of a written scheme of investigation to outline the methodology by which the archaeological mitigation should be undertaken.
  - To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
  - To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
  - To appropriately investigate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
  - To produce an archive and report of any results.



**Figure 1:** Location map, based on the Ordnance Survey.

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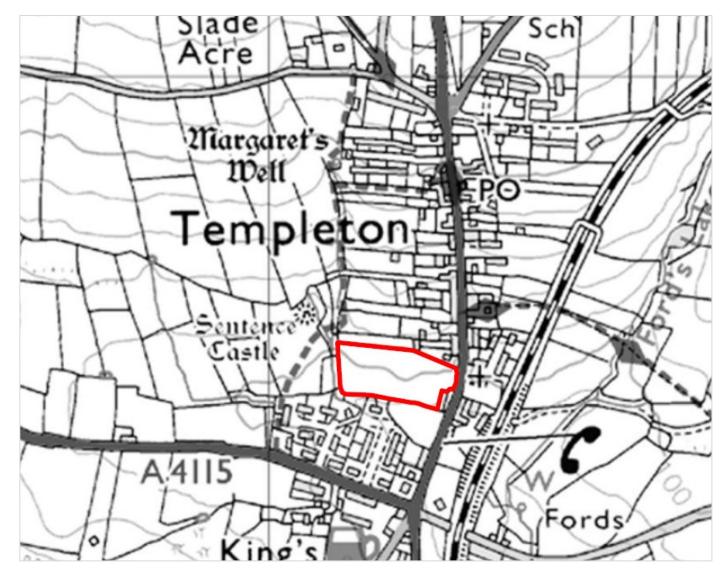


Figure 2: Location map showing development area outlined in red, based on the Ordnance Survey.

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Figure 3: Development proposal plan (supplied by client).

#### **1.3 Report Outline**

1.3.1 This report provides a summary and discussion of the archaeological excavations and watching briefs conducted at the site between 2014 and 2018.

#### 1.4 Abbreviations

1.4.1 Sites recorded on the Regional Historic Environment Record<sup>1</sup> (HER) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR). Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services – DAT-FS; Dyfed Archaeological Trust Heritage Management – DAT-HM; Written Scheme of Investigation – WSI; RCAHMW – Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales.

#### 1.5 Illustrations

1.5.1 Printed map extracts are not necessarily produced to their original scale.

#### 1.6 Timeline

1.6.1 The following timeline (Table 1) is used within this report to give date ranges for the various archaeological periods that may be mentioned within the text.

Period	Approximate date	
Palaeolithic –	<i>c</i> .450,000 – 10,000 BC	
Mesolithic –	<i>c</i> . 10,000 – 4400 BC	Pre
Neolithic –	<i>c</i> .4400 – 2300 BC	hist
Bronze Age –	<i>c</i> .2300 – 700 BC	Prehistoric
Iron Age –	<i>c</i> .700 BC – AD 43	n
Roman (Romano-British) Period –	AD 43 - <i>c.</i> AD 410	
Post-Roman / Early Medieval Period -	<i>c</i> . AD 410 – AD 1086	프
Medieval Period –	1086 - 1536	Historic
Post-Medieval Period <sup>2</sup> –	1536 - 1750	ric
Industrial Period –	1750 - 1899	

Table 1: Archaeological and Historical Timeline for Wales

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Held and managed by Dyfed Archaeological Trust, The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo SA19 6AF.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The post-medieval and industrial periods are combined as the post-medieval period on the Regional Historic Environment Record as held by Dyfed Archaeological Trust

#### 2. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

#### 2.1 Historical Background

- 2.1.1 The village of Templeton takes its name from the Society of Knights Templar who established a foundation there towards the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century (Soulsby 1983)
- 2.1.2 The origins of settlement at Templeton are vague and no record of any charter exists for the town. The present village lines the main road and has a very regular layout and has been interpreted as a classic example of deliberate planning in the medieval period. The houses that front the street each have plots that extend behind each dwelling; former burgage plots, which largely remain intact except for where the railway line runs behind St Johns Church (Soulsby 1983).
- 2.1.3 Sentence Castle (SM PE 110; PRN 3750) is located on the west side of the main road on the fringes of the village. It is not known when the castle was built but it is believed that it could be a predecessor to Narberth Castle and was burnt by Gruffudd ap Rhys in 1116 and then again attacked by the Welsh in 1215 and 1220 (Soulsby 1983).
- 2.1.4 The castle is an embanked ringwork enclosure, approximately 15m in diameter, a typical example of a Welsh castle before stone castles were built.
- 2.1.5 The following information has been extracted from 'Land North of the Village Green, Templeton, Pembrokeshire Trial Trench Evaluation' (Meek 2010).
- 2.1.6 The proposed development area lies to the southeast of the site of Sentence Castle, a medieval Motte castle (SM PE110, PRN 3750), and survives as a fairly substantial earthwork. The castle is thought to have been established in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, and would have been a focal point for an extended settlement in the vicinity which has evolved into the village of Templeton as it exists today.
- 2.1.7 The medieval street plan of the village is partially fossilised in the current village layout, comprising properties along the main north-south road, with rectangular plot boundaries running east-west from the road line. The street plan is shown clearly on the 1840 and 1889 maps of Templeton (Figures 4 and 5), which also indicate that the proposed development area was subdivided into three separate fields. No structures or development is shown within the site area.
- 2.1.8 The place name of Templeton is said to derive from ownership of the area by the Knights Templar, the religious military order of the medieval period. The Templars were most notable for their military actions in the Crusades, as well as being an order which owned a great deal of land in England.
- 2.1.9 The Knights Templar held very little property in Wales, whereas the Knights Hospitaller (another religious military order) appear to have been much better represented. It is considered that the Templars were viewed as being too close to the English King, to whom they acted in effect as bankers, with neither Marcher Lords or Welsh princes wishing to give the king any more influence in the area than was necessary (Nicholson 2001, p.172).
- 2.1.10 Templar property in Wales consisted of scattered properties in Monmouthshire and Glamorgan along with the church and manor of Llanmadoc in Gower. In Pembrokeshire the order's only recorded interests consisted of the mill on Pembroke Castle Bridge and the village of Templeton (ibid). Given the small amount of property held, no preceptory was established in Wales and the estates were administered from Garway Preceptory in Herefordshire, which was founded during the mid-12<sup>th</sup> century (Lord 2004, p.147; Tapper 2005, pp.21-24).
- 2.1.11 Whilst Templeton is considered to have been a Templar possession, it is not included in a list of Garway Preceptory's properties and no surviving evidence

exists for its original donor and date of donation (Rees 1947, pp.105-128). It is considered that, given the distance from Garway, the Welsh estates and properties were sub-let to other religious orders and secular tenants. Templeton does not figure in any of the surviving Acta issued by the Bishops of St Davids between 1148 and 1280 (Barrow 1998, pp. 35-170).

- 2.1.12 Following the suppression of the Knights Templar in 1312, a Bull issued by Pope Clement V, transferred all former Templar properties and estates to the Knights Hospitallers of the Order of St John of Jerusalem (Nicholson 2001a, p. 230). By 1338 Garway Preceptory had transferred to the Hospitaller Dinmore Commandery, also in Herefordshire (Tapper 2005, p.56). The Pembrokeshire properties of the Templars were transferred to the Hospitallers at Slebech Commandery, Pembrokeshire (Parry 1996, p.53). However, in many cases former Templar property failed to be transferred to the Hospitallers, much of it being taken back by the descendants of the original don<u>o</u>rs (Rees 1947, p.58) and possibly donated to different religious orders, or claimed by rulers and granted out to favourites.
- 2.1.13 The seizure of former Templar property by secular lords and rulers prompted a lengthy legal challenge by the Hospitallers and in 1324 Brother Thomas Archer, Prior of England, supported by the Pope and bishops succeeded in obtaining an Act of Parliament vesting all former Templar properties to the Hospitallers. The legal challenge made a serious impact on the finances of the Order and Brother Thomas was replaced soon after by Leornard de Tybertis, Prior of Venice, as acting Prior of England, a role he was to hold until 1330 when he handed control to Philip de Thame (King & Scarborough 2004, pp.28-29).
- 2.1.14 In a 1338 report, detailing the income and expenditure of the Commandery of Slebech, produced by de Thame, to the Grand Master of the Order, Elyan de Villanova, Templeton is recorded amongst the properties as:

#### TEMPLETON

#### One house and carucate of land value per annum £6 3s 3d

This was granted to Sir Thomas de Hungerford, knight, for the term of his life rent free, in the time of Brother Thomas Larcher, on condition of his providing a chaplain to do duty in the chapel there. The residue to wit 50s is the annuity granted to Sir Thomas.

#### (Reproduced in Parry 1996, pp.44-45)

- 2.1.15 Given that the property was granted to Sir Thomas de Hungerford during the office of Brother Thomas Larcher it is considered that the property may have formerly belonged to the Templars. However, there is the suggestion that the Templeton referred to in the de Thame Report may refer to a site in Berkshire (Walker 2002, p.143). The Berkshire site connection appears to be debateable given that the site is a farm currently known as Templeton, the original name for the holding being Temple Inglewood (Ford 2004). Given that Templeton is included amongst the Slebech Commandery properties, which were concentrated in Pembrokeshire, it is considered that the Templeton referred to is located in Pembrokeshire and not Berkshire.
- 2.1.16 There is the suggestion that in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, Templeton formed part of the landed estate of the Mortimer Lordship of Narberth. In the inquest post mortem of Roger Mortimer in 1282 Templeton was recorded as villa Templarii and Templariorum (Walker 2002, p.143). In 1283 Templeton is recorded as Villa Templarorium Campestris references are made to burgesses in the village (Coflein data). It is possible that the Templars held property at

Templeton but the settlement itself came under the jurisdiction of the Lordship of Narberth and was administered from nearby Sentence Castle. Local tradition suggests that the castle was constructed by the Templars, although this is considered unlikely.

- 2.1.17 Given the documentary references to a house and chapel at Templeton, it is considered that a 'camera' may once have been in existence in the village. The term 'camera' refers to a Templar property without a resident preceptor and functioned like a monastic grange specialising in arable agriculture, pastoralism or dairying and often included their own chapels. In addition to agricultural buildings and a chapel, 'camerae' included a hall, brewhouse and other ancilliary structures and associated trackways (Gilchrist 1995, p.93).
- 2.1.18 When Templeton was visited by Fenton he suggests the presence of a ruined chapel 'a little recessed in a field' on the east side of the road along with 'the remains of pretty large houses' at an unspecified location in the village. Local tradition infers that a chapel and Templar house stood on the site now occupied by St John's Church in the village but it has not been possible to substantiate this.
- 2.1.19 Following the dissolution of the Hospitallers in 1540 it is unclear what happened to the property at Templeton, but it is understood that burgages were still present in the village in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The burgage plot layout of the village remains fossilised in the present street layout, mostly located to the north of the proposed development plot.

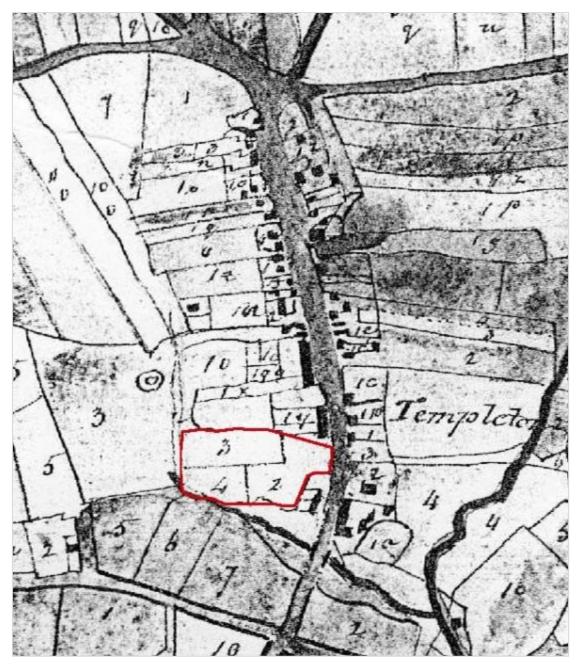
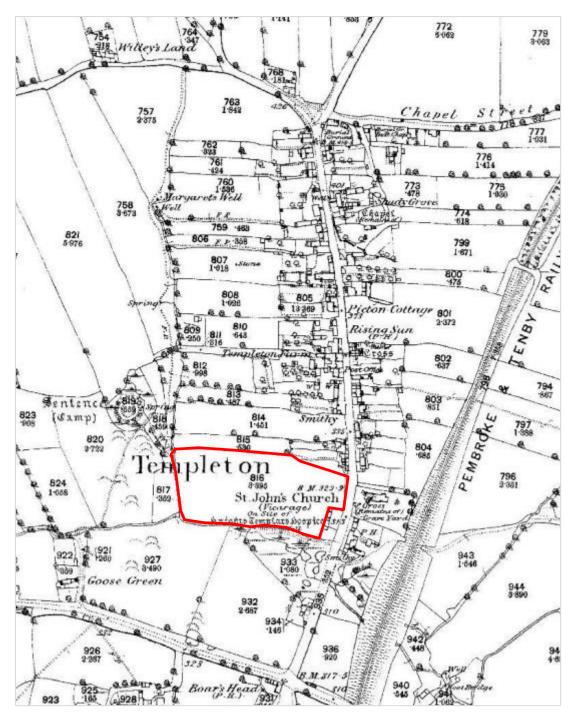


Figure 4: An extract from the 1840 parish tithe map of South Narberth; showing Templeton. The development area is outlined in red.



**Figure 5**: An extract from 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey 25" map published in 1889; showing Templeton. The development area is outlined in red.

#### 2.2 Archaeological Potential

- 2.2.1 The following summarises the results of the evaluation (Meek 2010) which was carried out pre-determination of the planning application for the residential development.
- 2.2.2 The archaeological evaluation comprised a geophysical survey (Poucher 2010) of the entire area (Figures 6 and 7) followed by the excavation of 11 trenches across the 1.32ha site (Figure 8).
- 2.2.3 The results of the evaluations were summarised as follows:

The proposed development area lies to the east of Sentence Castle, a medieval Motte castle and Scheduled Monument. The castle is thought to have been established in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, and would have been a focal point for an extended settlement in the vicinity which has evolved into the village of Templeton as it exists today. The medieval street plan of the village is partially fossilised in the current village layout, comprising properties along the main north-south road, with rectangular plot boundaries running east-west from the road line. The name of Templeton is derived from the 'Templar's Town' based on the establishment of a Knights Templar Hospice on the site of the present church (to the east of the site area), for which there is documentary evidence. Given the site's location it was considered that there was a potential for important archaeological remains to survive within the development area that could be adversely affected by the proposed development, and thus the requirement for pre-determination evaluation was placed on the development proposals.

The pre-determination evaluation was undertaken in two phases, the first being a geophysical survey undertaken in January 2010 and the second, a trial trench evaluation undertaken in April 2010 comprising 11 trenches. The geophysical survey indicated the presence of a number of east-west and north-south field boundaries, a ring ditch in the south-western part of the site, and anomalies indicative of possible settlement activity along the eastern side of the site near the road frontage.

The trial trench evaluation confirmed the presence of features representative of almost all the geophysical survey anomalies, most of which would appear to be of archaeological origin. The features are concentrated in three main areas: one on the south-western part of the site area, around the ring ditch and adjacent ditch (Trench 9 and 10); an area in the northern part of the centre of the site, where a pair of east to west gullies were recorded together with other ditches and a posthole (Trenches 6 and 7); and on the south-eastern frontage of the site where remains of a stone building, numerous gullies and a possible posthole were recorded (Trenches 3, 4 and 5). No archaeological features were visible within the trenches placed in the north-western part of the area (Trench 11), the central southern area (Trench 8) or the north-eastern part of the site (Trenches 1 and 2). The potential for archaeological remains to be present beyond the boundaries of the evaluation trenches cannot be discounted.

The evaluation demonstrated that archaeological remains exist at a shallow depth below the ground surface (generally less than 0.60m below the present ground surface). The ring ditch in the south-western area is most likely of prehistoric date, and may be a Bronze Age round barrow (burial mound) or an Iron Age roundhouse. The east-west linear features seen within the central area of the site are likely to cross the entire site area (as suggested by the geophysical survey) and may represent the original line of medieval burgage plot boundaries extending back from the street frontage almost as far back as Sentence Castle. The archaeological remains on the south-eastern side of the site appear to represent settlement activity that dates from the 17<sup>th</sup> century at the latest. (Meek 2010)

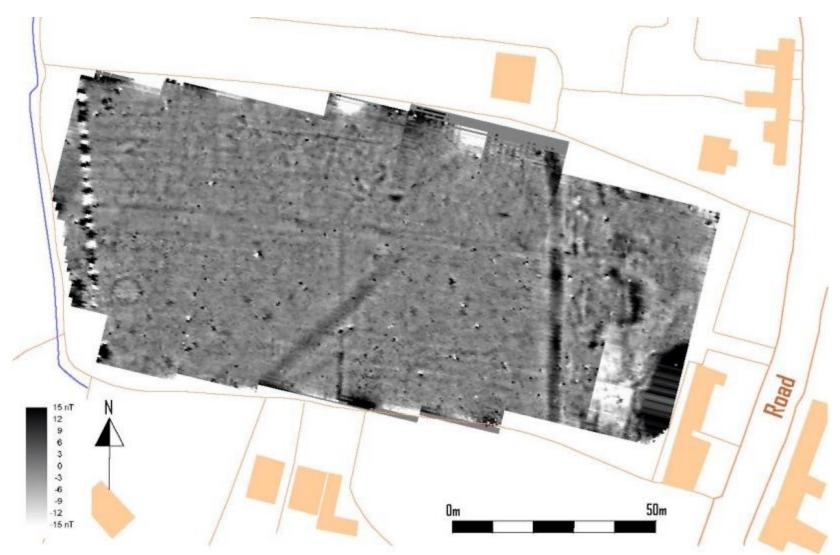
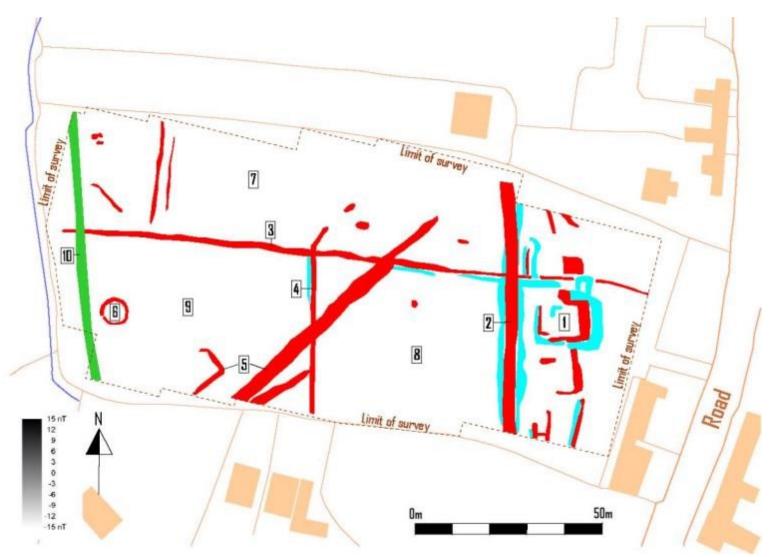


Figure 6: The processed geophysical survey grey-scale data, overlaid on local topographical features (Poucher 2010).



**Figure 7:** Interpretation of the geophysical survey. Numbers relate to 'Geophysical Interpretation' section in the main text, red highlights the main positive magnetic anomalies, blue highlights the main negative magnetic anomalies and green the main bipolar anomalies. (Poucher 2010)

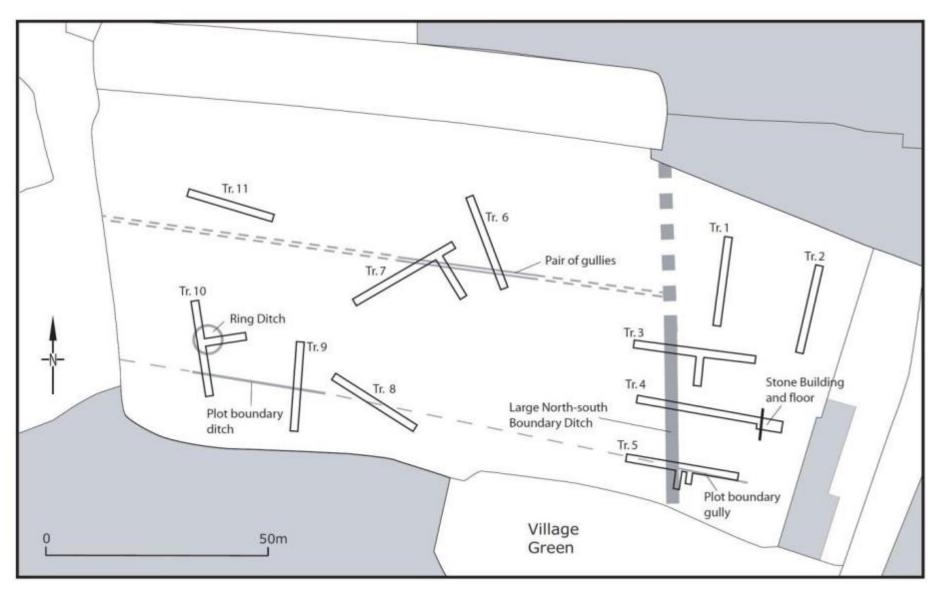


Figure 8: Evaluation trench plan showing layout of main identified features (Meek 2010).



Figure 9: Location of building survey (A) and areas of archaeological field work (B to E) superimposed on plan of development.

#### 3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION AND METHODOLGY

#### **3.1** Introduction to Archaeological Mitigation

- 3.1.1 As a result of the 2010 geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation five separate areas were identified within the development area that required further archaeological mitigation (Figure 9).
- 3.1.2 Area A building recording of small barn prior to demolition
- 3.1.3 Area B watching brief during ground works along the access road in the eastern part of the site and included the floor plan area of the properties on the street frontage, Plot 4 and car parking areas.
- 3.1.4 Area C excavation within House Plot 5, which was located on the projected line of the large medieval boundary ditch, running north to south, discovered during the evaluation undertaken in 2010.
- 3.1.5 Area D excavation within House Plots 11 and 12 which lay on top of the area of the ring ditch, identified during the evaluation in 2010. Sample excavation at various intervals along the ring ditch was carried out.
- 3.1.6 Area E watching brief within Plot 16 during groundworks in the western half of the site with the potential to reveal two possible pits identified by the 2010 geophysical survey.

#### 3.2 Fieldwork Methodology

#### Building Recording: Area A

3.2.1 A small dilapidated barn on the street frontage directly north of the village hall was to be demolished. Prior to demolition a Level 1 record was required, as defined in Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to best recording practice (Historic England 2016). This level of record comprised a basic visual record, with annotated floor plans, supplemented by information needed to identify the building's location, age and type. This recording was undertaken on 31st October 2014.

#### Watching Briefs: Areas B and E

- 3.2.2 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during ground works within Areas B and E where ground works had the potential to expose, damage or destroy underlying archaeological remains.
- 3.2.3 Ground reduction work was undertaken by the site contractors using a  $360^{\circ}$  tracked excavator fitted with a grading bucket under constant supervision by an archaeologist.
- 3.2.4 The watching briefs undertaken within Area B occurred between 13<sup>th</sup> November 2014 and 16<sup>th</sup> December 2014 at the commencement of ground works at the eastern end of the development. This involved monitoring ground reduction works during work on the access road; Plot 4; car parking areas and at the front of the site.
- 3.2.5 The watching brief in Area E took place on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2018 during ground reduction works in Plot 16. The exposed area measured approximately 25m by 21m.
- 3.2.6 All archaeological deposits revealed during the groundworks were examined and recorded to an appropriate level. The works included observation of groundworks, hand drawn sections and plans of archaeological features, written descriptions and photographic records.

- 3.2.7 Recording of all archaeological features or deposits conformed to best current professional practice and was carried out in accordance with the Recording Manual<sup>3</sup> used by DAT Archaeological Services.
- 3.2.8 The work followed the Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief as laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014) and adhered to their code of conduct (CIfA 2014).

#### Excavation: Area C: Linear Ditch [102]

- 3.2.9 The archaeological excavation in Area C took place between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of January, 2015. The area measured 17m x 13.5m and included the majority of House Plot 5. The projected line of the large linear ditch [102], identified during the 2010 evaluation and judged to be medieval in date (Meek 2010), ran north to south across House Plot 5. This was confirmed during the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2014 watching brief during ground reduction works for the access road which recorded the ditch running into Plot 5.
- 3.2.10 The area was machine stripped with a grading bucket to the correct archaeological level before being hand cleaned to delineate the edges of ditch [102] prior to excavating two trenches through it.
- 3.2.11 The first trench was hand excavated and all deposits were numbered using the open-ended numbering system in accordance with Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services Recording Manual<sup>4</sup> and recorded by archaeological recording context sheets. All artefacts were securely located and retrieved from the ditch.
- 3.2.12 Due to difficult working conditions it was decided to excavate the second trench by machine using a grading bucket.
- 3.2.13 Where possible exposed sections of the ditch were recorded by means of measured drawings and a photographic record was maintained using a digital camera.
- 3.2.14 Recording of all archaeological features and deposits conformed to best current professional practice and was carried out in accordance with the Recording Manual used by Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services.

#### Excavation: Area D – Ring ditch [201]

- 3.2.15 The excavation in Area D took place between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> September 2017. The trench encompassing the ring ditch [201] measured 17.5m by 12m. It was situated at the western end of the development between House Plots 11 and 12. The trench was excavated using a 360 tracked excavator fitted with a grading bucket whilst under constant supervision by an archaeologist. All non-archaeologically significant overburden was removed down onto either archaeological levels or the underlying natural undisturbed ground surface, whichever was encountered first.
- 3.2.16 After machining the entire area was hand cleaned to identify the extent of the ring ditch and also prove the presence, or absence of additional archaeological features in the immediate vicinity, and to determine their significance.
- 3.2.17 At least 50% of the ring ditch was excavated. This was accomplished in four 1.0m segments and one 2.4m segment through the ditch; at least one section from each the segment was recorded. The excavation of the minimum number of identified archaeological features in the immediate vicinity needed

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services use the Recording Manual developed by English Heritage Centre for Archaeology.

to elucidate the character, distribution, extent, date and importance of the archaeological remains was undertaken. This approach was agreed with Development Management – Dyfed Archaeological Trust.

- 3.2.18 Features containing deposits of environmental significance were sampled for assessment.
- 3.2.19 All deposits were recorded by archaeological context record sheet, scale drawing, photography and site notebooks, using the DAT Archaeological Services' Recording Manual. All deposits were individually recorded and given context numbers. Significant deposits were recorded by scale drawing (no less than 1:20); drawn plans were related to Ordnance Datum and known boundaries.
- 3.2.20 A digital photographic record was maintained as a minimum, using a high resolution camera, with photographic information recorded for all photographs taken.

#### 3.3 Post-Fieldwork Reporting and Archiving

- 3.3.1 All data recovered during the fieldwork was collated into a site archive structured in accordance with specifications in *Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (Brown 2007), and the procedures recommended by the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth.
- 3.3.2 The results of the fieldwork were assessed in local, regional and wider contexts. The report includes a desk-based research element to ensure that the site is placed within its wider archaeological context

#### 4. **RESULTS**

The results of the archaeological investigations are discussed chronologically in the order that they were undertaken. All numbers within the text within square brackets [] refer to the unique context number given to all individual deposits using the open-ended numbering system in accordance with the DAT Archaeological Services' Recording Manual<sup>5</sup>

#### 4.1 Area A – Barn (Building Recording): 31<sup>st</sup> October 2014

- 4.1.1 The barn stood in a small yard at the southwest corner of the development site, fronting the A478 road. The remains of a stone wall stood between it and the road, the corner of which turned into the development site. The Village Hall was immediately to the south and a ruinous stone building to the north (Photo 1).
- 4.1.2 Buildings in approximately the same location as the barn can be seen in the 1840 tithe map of Templeton (Figure 10).

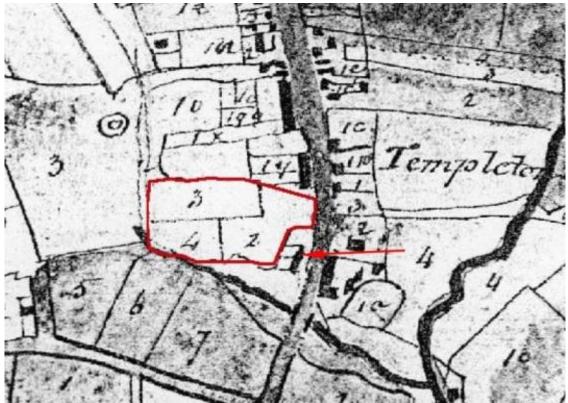


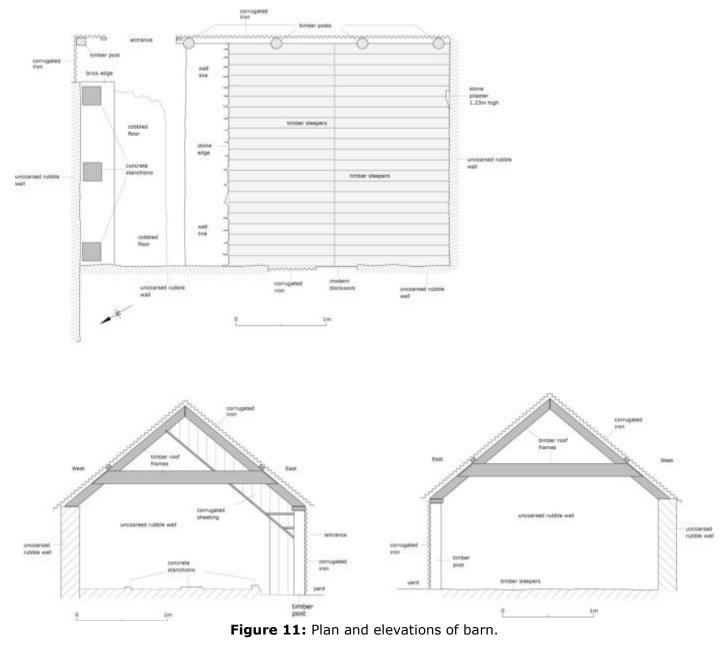
Figure 10: Detail of 1840 tithe map of Templeton; arrow indicates possible site of barn.

- 4.1.3 The barn had undergone two phases of construction (Figure 11). It originally measured approximately 6.1 by 6.1m, but the north wall had been demolished and the building extended to reach the gable wall of the adjacent (now ruinous) building.
- 4.1.4 The barn comprised three stone walls; with the fourth constructed of timber posts and corrugated iron sheets. The roof was also constructed of corrugated iron sheets (Photos 2 and 3). The floor comprised timber planks and a cobbled floor with the remains of the original north wall of the barn visible between the two surfaces (Photo 4). Before being incorporated into the barn extension, the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services use the Recording Manual developed by English Heritage Centre for Archaeology.

cobbled floor was once an outside yard situated between the barn and the adjacent building.

4.1.5 In order to accommodate the width of the barn, the gable wall of the adjacent building, being narrower than the barn, was widened using timber posts and corrugated iron sheets (Photo 5). It is unclear if the post and iron sheeting at the east side of the barn replaced a stone wall or if the barn was always open-fronted (Photo 6). A stone pillar (1.3m high), located in the south gable wall could be the remains of a small return on the east side of the barn - this can be seen beside the left scale in Photo 3 (Figure 11).



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**Photo 1:** East side of barn with village hall in the background (2m scale).



Photo 2: West wall of barn and blocked window (2x2m scales).



**Photo 3:** South wall of barn and corrugated iron roof (2x2m scales).



**Photo 4:** Timber floor butting up to remains of original north wall; remnant of cobble floor on the right (2m scale).



**Photo 5:** North wall of barn utilising narrower gable wall of adjacent building with corrugated extension (2x2m scale).



Photo 6: East facing view of post and corrugated iron side of barn (1m scale)

4.2 Area B – Series of watching briefs undertaken during ground works in eastern part of site between 13<sup>th</sup> November and 16<sup>th</sup> December 2014 (Figure 12).

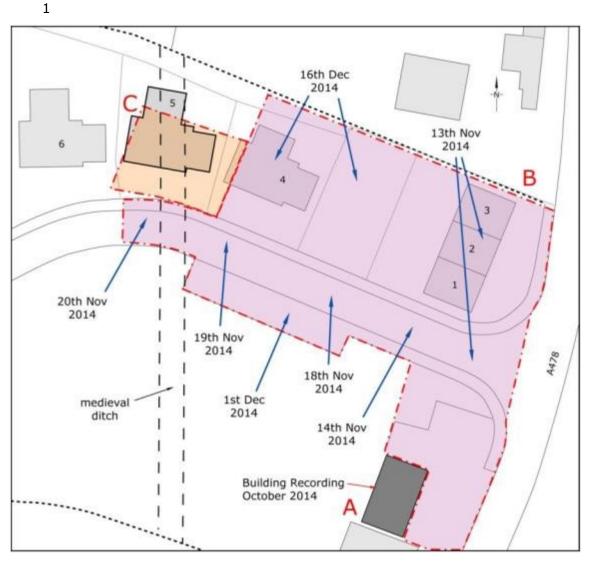


Figure 12: Approximate locations and dates of watching briefs.

### Area B - Watching briefs 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> November 2014 (Figure 12)

4.2.1. On November 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> 2014, at the commencement of groundworks, the eastern end of the site, adjacent to the road, was monitored (Photo 7). The barn (Area A) had previously been demolished. It was noted that approximately 5m west of the road kerbside, the bedrock shelved upwards rapidly.



**Photo 7:** View south; ground reduction at the eastern end of the site (A478 in background).

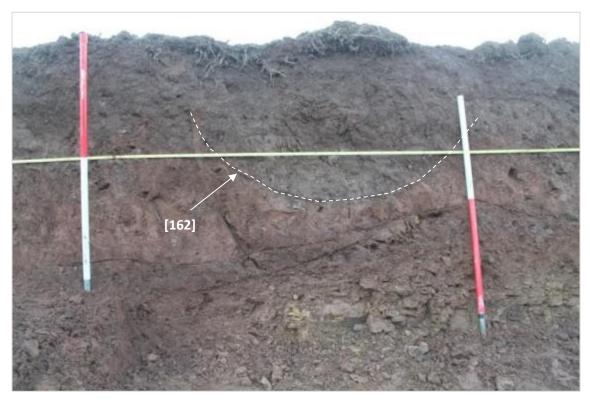
4.2.2 On November 14<sup>th</sup> 2014 the ground works for the access road began to be monitored (Photo 8). A narrow, shallow gully, orientated NE-SW and dug into the subsoil, was recorded and partially excavated.



Photo 8: View west; groundworks for access road at east end of site.

#### Area B - Watching briefs 18<sup>th</sup>, 19th & 20<sup>th</sup> November 2014 (Figure 12)

- 4.2.3 A further series of watching briefs were carried out on 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of November during the construction of the access road into the development. It was anticipated that the course of the large medieval ditch [102] discovered during the evaluation in 2010 would be seen during the watching brief.
- 4.2.4 The watching brief undertaken on November 18<sup>th</sup> 2014 observed two features within the north facing section at the eastern end of the corridor stripped for the access road (Photo 9). The topsoil [151] had an average depth of 0.5m, below which a layer of red/brown silty-clay sub-soil [152] sat above natural bedrock [153]. A relatively shallow U-shaped ditch [162] was recorded cutting into the sub-soil. It measured 1.1m wide and was 0.35m deep. The fill [163] comprised a grey/brown, silty-clay and contained a moderate amount of small stones. No artefacts were visibly present in the fill.
- 4.2.5 A change in the natural ground level was recorded below the ditch (Photo 9). It is possible that this occurred as a result of past terracing of the land during the medieval period. Such terraces are likely to be associated with the creation of plot boundaries and levelling of rear yard areas.



**Photo 9:** North facing section along cut for access road showing ditch [162] and underlying terracing (2 x 1m scale)

4.2.6 The watching brief undertaken on 19<sup>th</sup> November recorded the large medieval ditch cut [102] which traversed the development site and a smaller ditch cut [150] to the east of it (Figure 13, Photo 10). Both ditches were orientated north-south.

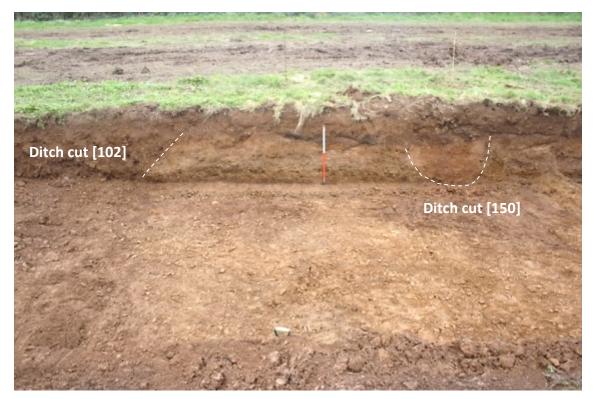


Photo 10: South facing section along cut for access road showing ditch cut [102] on the left; ditch cut [150] on the right and heat affected subsoil [154] in the section behind 1m scale.

	Topsoil [151]		Area of burning [154]				
Mid-brown, silty-cla sub soil	/	Mid-brown, silty-clay sub soil [152]	La caracteria de la car	dente 1	Red/brown,		
	Ł		Natural	Ditchcut [150]	silty-clay	Natural	

Figure 13: Drawn section of south facing section shown in Photo 10.

- 4.2.7 The topsoil [151] in this area was up to 0.5m thick, below which stood a layer of mid-brown, silty-clay subsoil [152] which in turn, stood above natural ground [153]. A lens of charcoal and heat affected soil [154] was evident in the subsoil. This layer sealed ditch [150] but did not seal ditch [102]. The lens [154] is possibly the result of vegetation clearance and could have occurred during any period from medieval to recent times.
- 4.2.8 Only the upper 0.75m of ditch cut [102] was exposed during the watching brief. It measured approximately 4.0m wide and was steep-sided. The upper fill [103] comprised a mid-brown silty-loam. No artefacts were recorded (Figure 13, Photo 11). A segment of this ditch was excavated in 2015, and a fuller description of the ditch can be found later in the report.



**Photo 11:** View looking north of medieval ditch [102] crossing access road (1m scale).

- 4.2.9 Ditch cut [150] was approximately 1.2m wide, 0.70m deep with steep sides and a broad curved base. The fill was a red/brown, silty-clay [155] with occasional small stones. No artefacts were present in the fill therefore dating was not possible. The ditch may have been constructed in order to divide the land into smaller units.
- 4.2.10 On 20<sup>th</sup> November 2014 the watching brief continued to monitor the ground works associated with the construction of the access road as it began to turn towards the southwest. No archaeological features or deposits were identified during this particular watching brief (Photo 12).



Photo 12: View west towards bend in access road being excavated.

## Area B - Watching brief 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014 (Figure 12)

- 4.2.11 On December 1st 2014 a watching brief was undertaken during ground reduction works within a proposed parking bay situated south of the access road, opposite House Plot 4. The area measured approximately 32.0m by 6.0m.
- 4.2.12 Two features were revealed towards the southern end of this area. Traversing the width of the area was a shallow linear gully [156], measuring 0.6m wide, 5.5m long and 0.2m deep with a concave profile. It was filled with grey/brown, silty-clay [157] which contained small fragments of coal. It was aligned N-S with a probable return westward at its southern end before it entered the trench baulk. It can be seen in the 2010 geophysical survey greyscale plot (Figure 14).
- 4.2.13 To the east of [156] was a sub-circular, shallow pit [158] approximately 0.7m diameter and 0.12m deep with a broad, curved profile (Photos 13 & 14). It was filled with a grey/brown silty-clay [159]; a similar to [157]. Both features were cut into a deposit of pink/brown, silty-clay with charcoal flecks [160]. The northern edge of this deposit was bounded by bedrock. Gully [156] cut through [160] and the bedrock [153] (Photo 14).

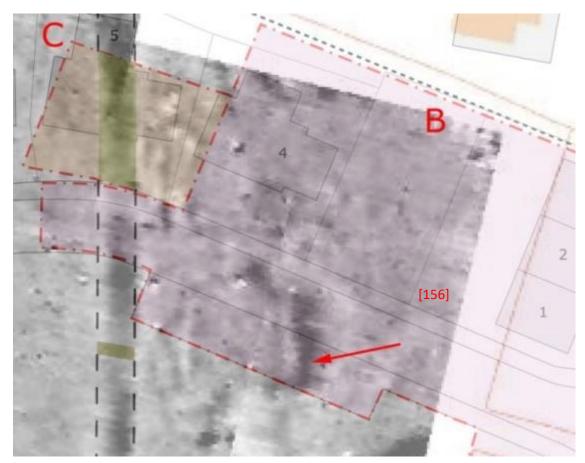


Figure 14: North-south gully [156] identified in geophysical survey and recorded during  $1^{st}$  December watching brief.



Photo 13: View north of gully [156] (left) and pit [158] (right) (1m scale).



Photo 14: View west; half-sectioned pit [158] (1m scale).

# Area B - Watching brief 16<sup>th</sup> December 2014 within House Plot 4 (Figure 12)

4.2.14 On December 16<sup>th</sup> 2014 a watching brief was undertaken during ground reduction works within House Plot 4 and its adjacent parking bays. The area measured approximately 29.0m by 7.0m. Two parallel linear features were revealed in the parking bay area to the east of House Plot 4. They were aligned north-south, and positioned 1.5m apart (Photo 15). Both features were visible as darker areas of soil against the lighter coloured surrounding subsoil.



Photo 15: View south; linear [164] (left) and linear [166] (right) (1m and 0.5m scales)

- 4.2.15 Linear [164] was 4.0m long, 1.2m wide and 0.16m deep. It had a flat base, with vertical sides (Photo 16). The fill consisted of a brown, silty-clay [165] with occasional small stone. No artefacts were recovered from the fills of either linear feature.
- 4.2.16 Ground reduction works in House Plot 4 revealed what appeared to be the remains of a stone filled linear gully [168]. It measured 3.9m long and 0.5m wide and ran into the western edge of the trench. The fill [169] was a brown, silty-clay containing charcoal flecks and large, sub-angular stone. In section it was approximately 0.35 deep (Photo 17).
- 4.2.17 It is possible that [168] could be the remains of a structure, and might be a continuation of, or associated with, linear feature [109] revealed during the excavation in adjacent House Plot 5.



Photo 16: View south; section across linear [164] (0.5m scale).



**Photo 17:** View west; stone-filled linear [168] running into the edge of the trench excavated across House Plot 4 (0.5m scale).

## 4.3 Area C - Excavation of ditch [102]: 12<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> January 2015

4.3.1 The large medieval ditch [102], discovered during previous investigations in 2010, traversed the footprint of House Plot 5. Area C overlay the majority of the footprint of the house and measured approximately 17m by 13.5m. The area was machine stripped with a grading bucket to the correct archaeological level, exposing the upper fill of [102] which contrasted with the lighter natural ground [153] (Figure 15; Photo 18).

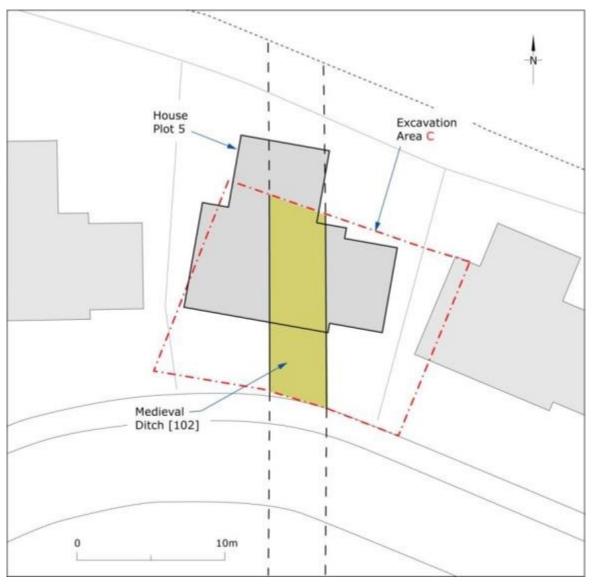


Figure 15: Excavation Area C and House Plot 5



**Photo 18:** View southwest; medieval ditch [102] visible as a darker band of soil within House Plot 5. (2 x 1m scales)

- 4.3.2 Subsequent trowelling of Area C exposed the edges of [102] and also revealed two further archaeological features [109] and [111] situated approximately 2.5m to the east of [102] (Figure 16).
- 4.3.3 Excavation of [102] revealed that it hewn into natural bedrock and had a V-shaped profile with steep sides and a flat bottom (Figure 17). The top of the ditch ranged between 3.9m and 4.0m wide and the base was approximately 0.7m wide. The ditch was at least and 1.80m deep.
- 4.3.4 Two trenches were excavated through ditch [102] and the fills removed. The first trench was excavated by hand but due to time constraints and difficult working conditions it was decided to excavate the second trench with a machine using a grading bucket. The exposed sections of the ditches were recorded by means of measured drawings and photographs (Figure 17; Photos 19 22)

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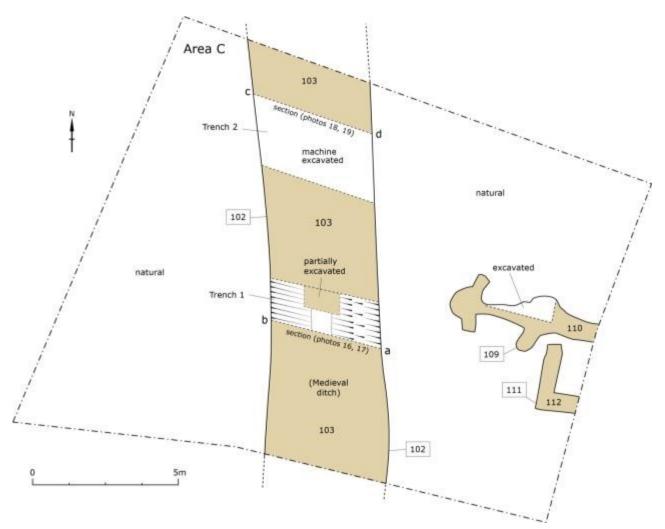


Figure 16: Plan of archaeological features within Area C

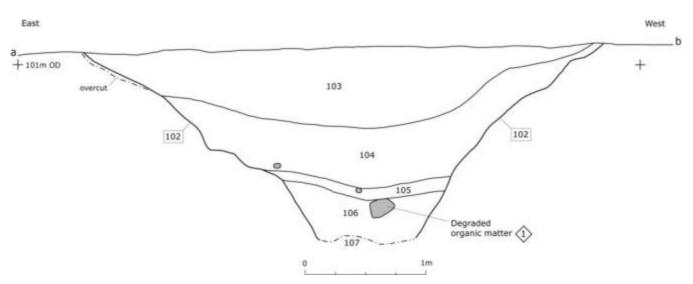


Figure 17: North facing section of medieval ditch [102] shown in plan in Figure 16

- 4.3.5. Within the hand excavated trench four individual fills were identified within ditch [102] (Figure 17). The lowest fill [107], a thin layer of gravel, was probably the result of bedrock erosion and contained no archaeological finds. Fills [103] to (1060 all comprised friable, silty-loams. Subtle colour variations distinguished them from each other. Archaeological artefacts were collected from each context; including fragments of pottery and possible heat affected stones. The majority of the pottery comprised body sherds from Dyfed Gravel-tempered, unglazed and glazed, medieval jugs and cooking pots. However, from upper ditch fill [103] 4 sherds of a Llanstephan jug dated to the 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century were recovered. No visible tip lines in the lower fills were discerned but possible demarcations were observed in the upper fills, suggesting the ditch may have in-filled from the west side. However, no clear evidence of an associated bank was recorded on the west side (Figure 17; Photos 19 & 20).
- 4.3.6 As previously mentioned, the second trench was excavated by machine with a grading bucket which resulted in some over-cutting of the eastern edge of the ditch. No archaeological artefacts were collected from this trench, but their lack is probably due to the machining process (Photos 21 & 22).



**Photo 19:** View southwest; hand excavated section across ditch [102] (2 x 1m scale)



**Photo 20:** View north; hand excavated section across ditch [102] (2 x 1m scales)



**Photo 21:** View northwest; machine-excavated section across ditch [102] (1m scale)



**Photo 22:** View north; machine-excavated section across ditch [102] (2 x 1m scales)

- 4.3.7 Two archaeological features [109] and [111], filled with similar fills were located on the eastern edge of the excavation area (Figure 16).
- 4.3.8 Linear feature [109] exhibited an unusual morphology. It was at least 5.0m long and up to 0.8m wide with three projections protruding from its edges. It was aligned east-west and extended further east out of the excavation area. In section two fills were identified; a dark brown, silty-clay upper fill [110] and a stonier, charcoal-flecked lower fill [170]. It is possible that [109] a continuation of linear [168] which was observed during the watching brief in adjacent House Plot 4 on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2014. In section the feature is approximately 0.3m deep with a broad curved profile (Photo 23).
- 4.3.9 Excavation of a segment of [109] (Figure 16) suggested that the projections were shallow pits excavated at the same time as linear [109] (Photos 24, 25 & 26).
- 4.3.10 Linear [111] consisted of a roughly right-angled linear feature 2.2m N-S and 1.4m E-W and roughly 0.5m wide. The exposed section showed a 0.15m deep, curved profile and like [109] it had been truncated on its eastern side by previous ground works (Photo 26).



Photo 23: East facing section across linear [109] (1m & 0.5m scales)



Photo 24: View east; excavated segment of [109] (2 x 1m scales)



**Photo 25:** View south; west end of [109] showing curved terminus and projections (1m scale).



Photo 26: View south; linear [111] (dashed) and [109] (2 x 1m scales)



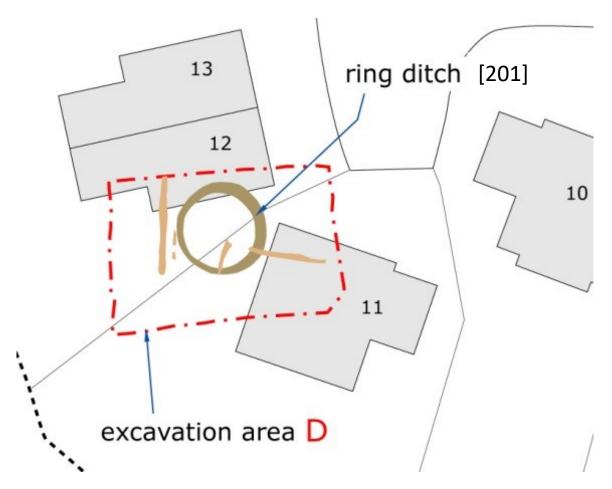
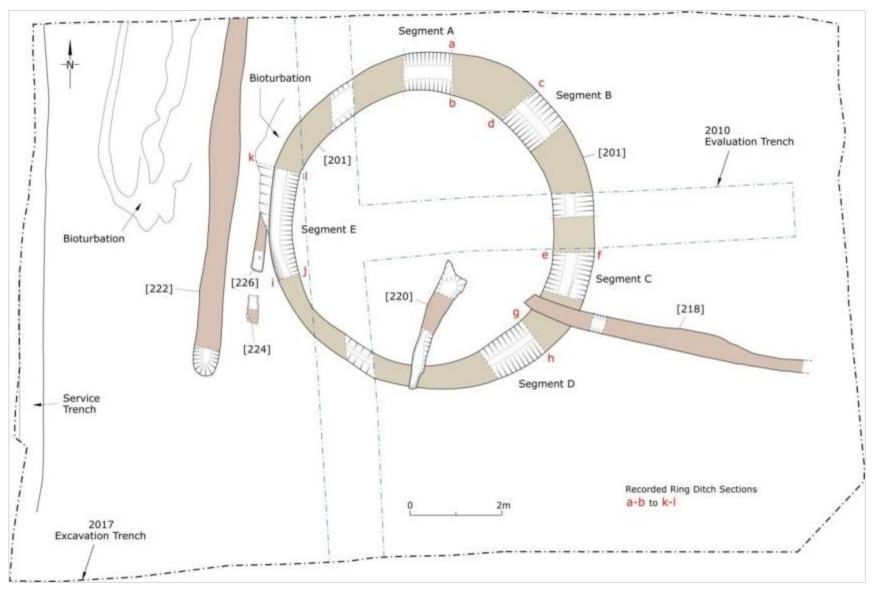


Figure 18: House plots 11 and 12, location of ring ditch [102] and extent of Area D

- 4.4.1 Between House Plots 11 and 12, an area approximately 12.0m by 10.0m was machine stripped with a grading bucket to the correct archaeological level, partially exposing ring ditch [201] identified during the geophysical survey in January 2010 and confirmed during the subsequent trial trenching in April 2010 (Figures 6 8).
- 4.4.2 After several stages of cleaning with hand tools the full extent of the features contained within the trench were revealed (Figure 19; Photo 27). These included (apart from the 2010 evaluation trench) a 7.3m diameter ring ditch [201] and five gullies: [218], [220], [222], [224] and [226]. A north-south aligned a service trench ran parallel with the western edge of Area D. Root and animal disturbance were evident in the NW quadrant of the excavation. The natural ground [153] in the western half of the trench consisted mainly of bands of yellow and orange sands and gravels with areas of black, silty-clay, possibly indicative of past paleo-channels. In the eastern half [153] comprised a more consistent reddish-brown, silty-clay.



**Figure 19:** Plan of gullies and excavated segments in ring ditch [102]

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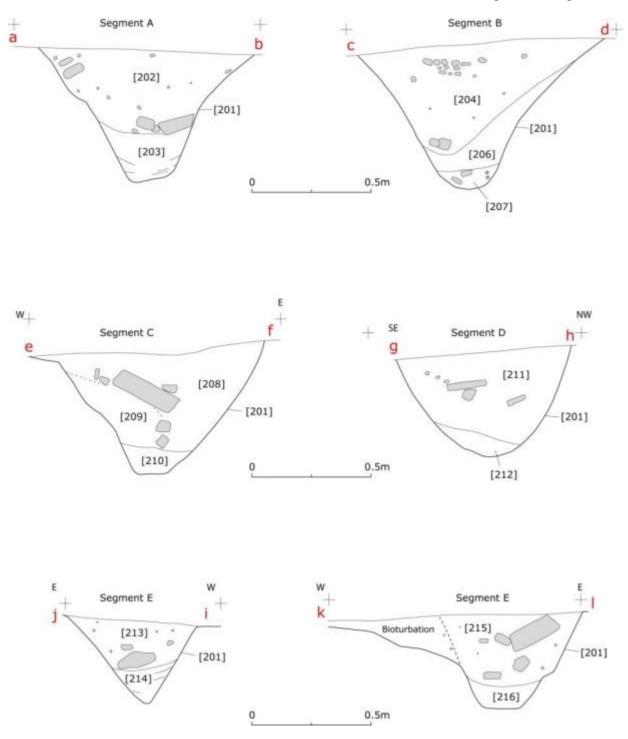


Figure 20: Sections across ring ditch [201] (shown in Figure 19)



**Photo 27:** View north after several stages of trowelling. The 2010 T-shaped trench and curve of ring ditch [201] are defined by dashed lines (1m scale).

- 4.4.3 The circumference of [201] measured 6.0m across internally, and 7.3m across externally. The ditch was widest at its northeastern side, measuring 0.98m wide, narrowing towards its southwestern side where it measured 0.45m (Figure 19). It was cut through natural deposits [153].
- 4.4.4 The fills of ditch [201] were excavated from four 1.0m long segments and one 2.4m segment. At least one section of each segment was drawn (these are referred to in Figures 19 and 20 as Segments A to E; with drawn sections shown in red letters). No finds were recovered from any of the excavated ditch fills.
- 4.4.5 Segment A was situated on the north side of the ring ditch and was oriented E-W. It measured 1.1m across, and was 0.83m wide at the centre. Both sections were 0.55m deep. It had a V-shaped profile with a sharp break of slope at the top and a flat, slightly sloping base. Its upper fill [202] consisted of dark, grey-brown silt, and its primary fill [203] of medium grey-brown silt with thin bands of clayey-silt and some charcoal (Figure 20; Photos 28 & 29).



Photo 28: West facing section (a-b) of [102]; Segment A (0.5m scale)



Photo 29: East facing section of [102]; Segment A (0.5m scale)

4.4.6 Segment B was situated on the northeast side of the ring ditch and was oriented NW-SE. It measured 1.0m long and was 0.98m wide at the centre. Both sections were 0.55m deep. It had a V-shaped profile with a sharp break of slope at the top and a curved base. The upper fill [204] consisted of dark grey-brown silt; below which lay [206] a yellow-brown, clayey-silt which lay above [207] a mixed

deposit of silts and clays with a modicum of charcoal flecks (Figure 20; Photos 30 & 31).



Photo 30: Southeast facing section (c-d) of [102]; Segment B (0.5m scale)



Photo 31: Northwest facing section of [102]; Segment B (0.5m scale)

- 4.4.7 Segment C was excavated between the 2010 evaluation trench and gully [218] and oriented NNE-SSW. It was 0.97m long and 0.87m wide at the centre. The south facing section was V-shaped, with an irregular western edge and a narrow flat base. It was 0.53m deep. The opposite section presented a more even V-shaped profile with a narrower base and was 0.50m deep. The upper fill (208) consisted of a grey-brown, silty-clay with some charcoal flecks, below which, on the west side, lay [209], a red-brown silty-clay with charcoal flecks. The primary fill [210] comprised a mixed deposit of greyish silts, sands and clay with charcoal flecks (Figure 20; Photos 32 & 33)
- 4.4.8 Two radiocarbon dates (SUERC-85209 and SUERC-85210) were produced from samples collected during excavation of Segment C. SUERC-85209 was retrieved from a hazel shell fragment found in the primary fill [210] of the ditch and SUERC-85210 was retrieved from a Triticum grain seed from the same fill [210]. Both produced very similar dates of 346-206 cal BC (SUERC-85209) and 350-209 cal BC (SUERC-85210).



Photo 32: South facing section of [102]; Segment C (0.5m scale)



Photo 33: North facing section (e-f) of [102]; Segment C (0.5m scale)

4.4.9 Segment D was located at the SE side of the ring ditch, between gullies [218] and [220]. It was 1.16m long and 0.86m wide at the centre and oriented NE-SW. The V-shaped northeast facing section contrasted greatly from the rounded SW facing section. The sections were 0.53m and 0.43m deep respectively. Upper fill [115] consisted of a grey-brown, silty-clay with some charcoal flecks; [116] consisted of a dark brown, silty-clay (Figure 20; Photos 34 & 35).



Photo 34: Southwest facing section (g-h) of [102]; Segment D (0.5m scale)



Photo 35: Northeast facing section of [102]; Segment D (0.5m scale)

4.4.10 Segment E was located at the western edge of the ring ditch before it returned into the 2010 evaluation trench. It was 2.4m long and 0.50m wide at the centre. The south facing section was 0.39m deep with steep sides and a flat base. The north facing section was V-shaped with a narrow base and was 0.35m deep. Both sections had similar fills; an upper fill [213] comprised dark grey-brown silt with charcoal flecks and a lower fill [214] a lighter clayey-silt with fewer charcoal flecks (Figure 20; Photos 36, 37 & 38).



Photo 36: North facing section of ring ditch Segment E (0.5m scale)



Photo 37: South facing section of ring ditch Segment E (0.5m scale)



Photo 38: View south of excavated Segment E of ring ditch [201].

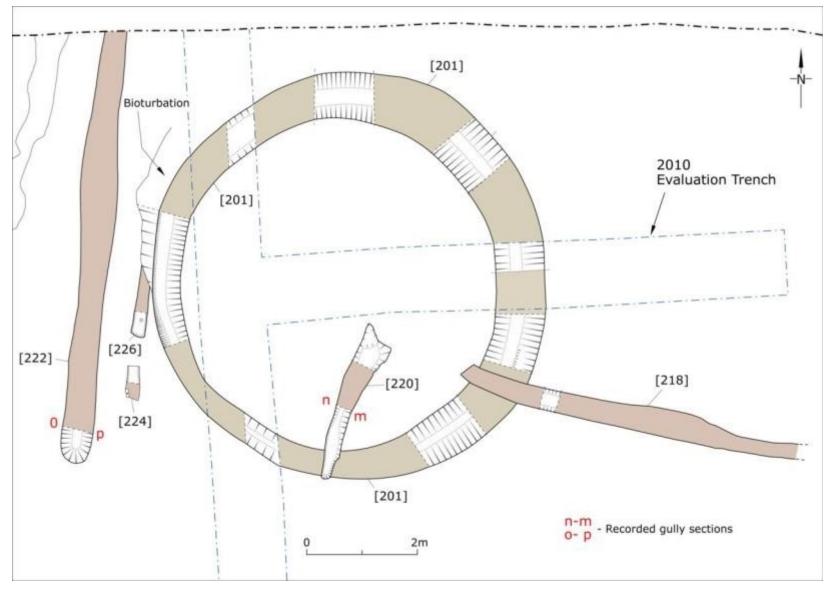


Figure 21: Plan showing positions of drawn sections across gullies [220] and [222] in Area D

4.4.11 A shallow gully [218], measuring 6.2m long, 0.4m wide and 0.08m deep, cut across [201] on its southeastern side, terminating in a straight, angular edge. The gully became less distinct towards its eastern end (Figure 21; Photo 39). An excavated segment of the gully showed it to have vertical sides and a flat base.. It was filled with a grey-brown silty-clay [219] and contained one sherd of Dyfed Gravel-tempered glazed medieval pottery.

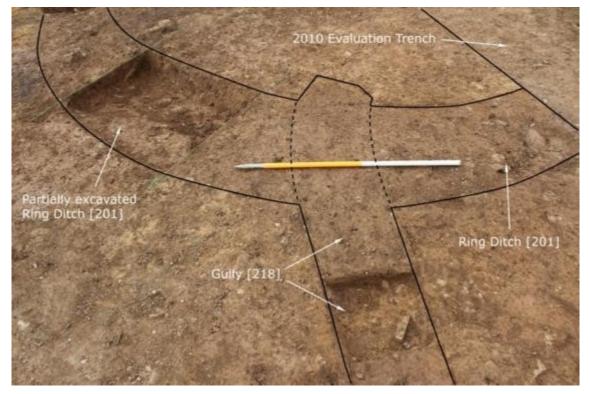


Photo 39: View west of gully [218] and ring ditch [201] (1m scale)

4.4.12 Gully [220] was 2.75m long, slightly curved and aligned NNE-SSW. Its width tapered from north to south (0.55m to 0.16m) and its depth was approximately 0.12m. Its sides varied from steep to vertical and the base was flat of varying width. Its southern end cut across [201]. It contained a single fill [221] comprising grey-brown, silty-sandy-clay containing one sherd of North Devon Medieval pottery (Figures 21 & 22; Photo 40)

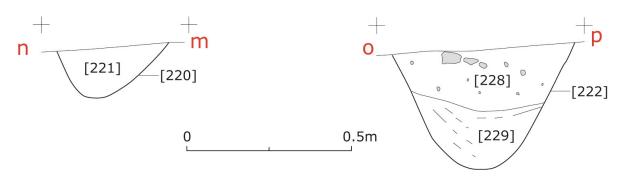


Figure 22: Sections across gullies [220] and [222]



**Photo 40:** View northeast showing partially excavated gully [220] crossing the fill of ring ditch [201] (1m scale)

4.4.13 Gully [224] was 0.58m long, 0.24m wide and 0.03m deep and filled with a dark brown silt [225] (Photo 41). This gully appeared to be a continuation of of gully [226], situated 0.53m to the north (Figure 21). Gully [226] was at least 1.2m long (its northern end truncated by root action or an animal burrow), 0.24m wide and 0.05m deep with a shallow curved profile (Photo 42). It contained two fills; a dark grey-brown silt [228] and a yellow-brown clay-silt [229]. At the base of [226] a possible stake-hole was recorded. No finds were recovered from the fills of either gully.



Photo 41: View east of partially excavated gully [224] (0.5m scale)



**Photo 42**: View east of partially excavated gully [226] and possible stake hole on base of gully. Excavated segment of ring ditch can be seen to rear (0.5m scale)

4.4.14 Gully [222] was at least 7.8m long (its northern end running outside of the excavation trench), 0.55m wide with steep sides and a curved base (Figure 21). It was orientated roughly N-S. Its upper fill [228] was a dark grey-

brown, clay-silt beneath which lay a yellow-brown, clay-silt [229] (Figure 22, Photo 43)



Photo 43: View north of excavated terminus of gully [222] (0.5m scale)



Photo 44: View southeast; Area D after completion of excavation (2m scale)

## 4.5 Area E – Watching brief within House Plot 16: 29<sup>th</sup> June 2018

- 4.5.1 The 2010 geophysical survey indicated the possible presence of a number of pits within the footprint of House Plot 16 and also showed a modern service trench running roughly N-S to the west of the house plot. The watching brief area measured approximately 25m by 21m. It was reduced by a 360° degree tracked excavator using a grading bucket under archaeological supervision.
- 4.5.2 A layer of topsoil (dark brown silty-clay) varying in depth between 0.20m and 0.30m was removed down to the underlying subsoil (Photo 45).
- 4.5.3 Within the exposed subsoil (mid-brown silty-clay) a 0.5m wide linear soil mark was revealed aligned in a N-S direction. The linear was visible along the whole length of the watching brief area (Photo 46).
- 4.5.4 A 0.55m long section of fill was removed from the linear. At a depth of 0.38m a series of concrete tiles were exposed. A CAT scan survey confirmed that this was an electric cable trench identified in the geophysical survey (Photo 47).
- 4.5.5 No evidence for any archaeological pits was seen during the watching brief.

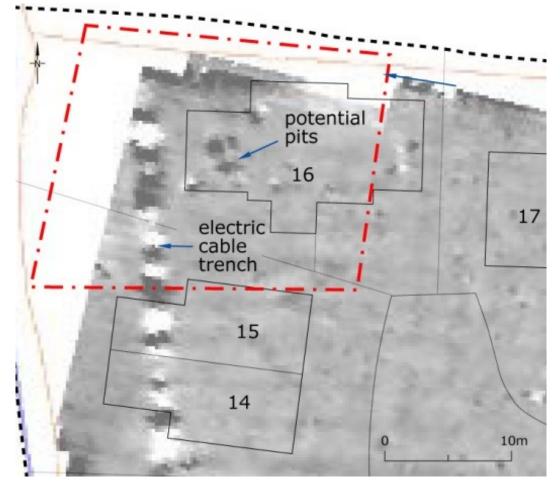


Figure 23: Detail of geophysical survey within House plot 16



**Photo 45:** View northwest towards Area E before commencement of ground reduction works.



Photo 46: View west of cable trench (1m scale)



Photo 47: View south of partially excavated section of cable trench (1m scale)

### 5. DISCUSSION and CONCLUSIONS

#### 5.1 Area B - Watching Briefs

- 5.1.1 With the exception of the possible structural feature [109] recorded in House Plot 4, which appeared to extend into House Plot 5 as [168], the remaining significant archaeological features recorded in Area B comprised linear gullies, the majority of which were orientated north-south. Some evidence of past terracing was recorded which suggests that this area of land has been subjected to some form of land division and levelling in the past.
- 5.1.2 The 1840 parish tithe map (Figure 4) shows some limited land division within the development area but by the 1889 Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> edition map (Figure 5) the area is shown as one open tractl of land. However, evidence of linear gullies and terracing would indicate that prior to the 19<sup>th</sup> century this area of land had been divided into small parcels.
- 5.1.3 Scrutiny of the aforementioned historic maps shows that the projected course of medieval ditch [102] to the north of the excavated area acts as a western boundary to the properties situated west of the road. This would suggest that some vestige of the ditch was evident during the establishment of the rear gardens in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries; enough to act as a boundary to their western extents.
- 5.1.4 The 2010 geophysical survey of the development area revealed very little activity west of ditch [102] but much more to the east, suggesting again that ditch [102] was acting as a boundary to development. The geophysical survey results appeared to hint at a structure to the east of ditch [102]. However, the watching brief in this area recorded no trace of a structure or building at this location.
- 5.1.5 The only candidate for a building that could be associated with the gullies and terraces is wall [404] and its associated floor [405] recorded during the 2010 evaluation in Trench 4, a little to the south of Area B (Figures 24 & 25; Photo 48).
- 5.1.6 Wall [404] was constructed from limestone blocks of varying sizes, with larger stones used on the wall faces and a rubble core. A probable clay bonding was visible within the wall. Butting up to the wall on the eastern side was a compacted, crushed limestone floor [405].
- 5.1.7 The date of the building is uncertain but it would appear to be pre-19<sup>th</sup> century as it is not shown on any available historic maps of the area; therefore it had probably been demolished before the 1840 tithe map was commissioned. Finds from the building included a single sherd of medieval pottery and numerous post-medieval sherds.
- 5.1.8 In summary, no evidence of earlier medieval buildings was revealed during the watching briefs in Area B but some evidence of pre-19<sup>th</sup> century land division was recorded; which unfortunately due to lack of dating evidence cannot be dated more accurately.

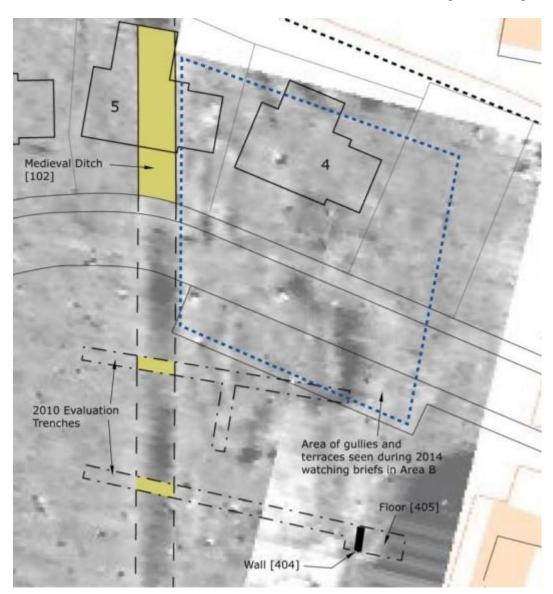


Figure 24: Wall [404] in relation to area of gullies and terracing.

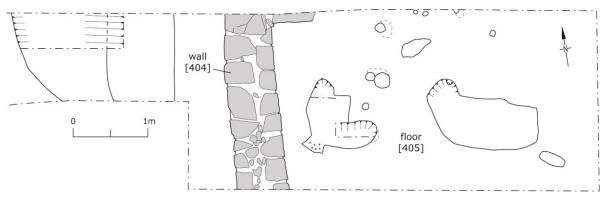


Figure 25: Eastern end of 2010 Trench 4 showing wall [404] and floor [405]



**Photo 48:** View west of 2010 Trench 4 showing wall [404] with floor [405] in foreground (scale 1m).

### 5.2 Area C - Excavation of linear ditch [102] within House Plot 5

- 5.2.1 The excavation recorded the large linear ditch [102] identified during the 2010 evaluation running north to south across House Plot 5. This ditch would appear to be a boundary ditch demarcating a line; to the east of which the village of Templeton developed, in contrast to west where little development occurred.
- 5.2.2 The surviving rock cut ditch would have been a substantial boundary ditch and may well have been defensive in nature. It is unlikely to be a drainage ditch or a plot boundary as it is too deep and wide and a great deal of time and effort has obviously gone into its construction. A bank formed from the excavation of the ditch would have been built to one side of the ditch depending on what the ditch was enclosing. There was some evidence, albeit slight, that the bank could have been on the west side of the ditch. If so could it have formed a perimeter boundary or defensive enclosure to Sentence Castle to the west? The ditch certainly shares characteristics reminiscent of a defensive like structure in terms of size and its steep rock cut edges, making it similar to examples of civil war defences encountered in sites across England. If it were a defensive fortification associated with Sentence Castle then a bank on the west side of the ditch would be expected.
- 5.2.3 The pottery retrieved from the ditch fills is all clearly medieval; ranging in date from the late 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century. This corresponds with the castle which is thought to date from the 12<sup>th</sup> century. However, the date range could equally make the ditch contemporary with the deliberate planning of the village; with the ditch and possibly a bank on its east side forming a village boundary.
- 5.2.4 The ditch was presumably back filled, after it had served its function and was no longer required, with material from its associated bank. The latest pottery from the ditch could be of 15<sup>th</sup> century origin and this gives us a rough indication of the date that the ditch was backfilled or silted up.

5.2.5 The proximity of [109] and [111] and the similarity of their fills indicate that these features are probably associated, although how is uncertain. The morphology of features [109] and [111] suggests that they may possibly be associated with a building. The right angled projections from [109] with associated shallow pits might be cuts for weight bearing beams supporting a structure and if the hypothesis that they are possibly part of the property associated with the building discovered during the 2010 excavations, they are older than the 17<sup>th</sup> century gardens and buildings to the north but not as old as the large medieval ditch which it respects.

## 5.3 Area D - Excavation of ring ditch [201] within House Plots 11 and 12.

- 5.3.1 The earliest evidence of human activity found within the development area was the ring ditch recorded between House Plots 11 and 12. The ring ditch was a complete circle; its width narrowing and its profile becoming shallower towards the southwest side of the ditch. The dimensions of the ring ditch and its lack of entrance rule out the possibility that it is a drainage gully for a roundhouse, and although there was no obvious surviving evidence for burials either within or outside the ring ditch nevertheless, it does seem likely to have been a funerary monument.
- 5.3.2 The ring ditch bears a close morphological resemblance to funerary monuments, typically referred to as round barrows, from the prehistoric period. These monuments are a common form of burial across Britain, the vast majority in Wales date between 3400 and 1500BC with (minimum) estimates of between 3000 and 4000 constructed during this time (Darvill and Wainwright 2016).
- 5.3.3 It is generally thought that a burial is placed in the ground and covered with a mound created by the up-cast from the encircling ring ditch but in this particular instance no central cut for a grave or remains of a cist were revealed. This is not uncommon as few round barrows survive in their entirety and are often partly or completely leveled by thousands of years of agricultural practice, surviving as nothing more than shallow earthworks on the ground or buried ditches.
- 5.3.4 It is also possible that the burial was inserted into the mound, which, as the mound eroded, became dispersed. General erosion of the topsoil and subsoil would also lessen the depth of the ring ditch and it is likely that the ditch was once deeper.
- 5.3.5 In terms of monument size the diameter of the ring ditch at Templeton (7.3m) is considered small when compared to the average diameter of between 12m 15m. The dates obtained from the basal fill of the ring ditch (300-200BC) are later than anticipated. Ring ditches are typically thought to have developed in the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age around 2300BC, but relatively later dates are not unprecedented; Excavations at Lovelodge Farm in Carmarthenshire (Hourihan et al 2015) revealed an assemblage of prehistoric burial practices in the form of two Bronze Age flat cemeteries, a possible Early Neolithic ring-ditch and four Iron Age ring-ditches; although there is the possibility they are of Bronze Age origin with the dates derived from later material in the backfill. Nonetheless the Lovelodge Farm site suggests a continuation of funerary and ritual activity spanning several millennia.
- 5.3.6 The stony backfill excavated from the ditches would appear to have been derived from the material originally excavated from them, which would have formed the central mound. Over time this had either slumped back into the ditches or been purposefully backfilled
- 5.3.7 The ring ditch, as far as other prehistoric features in the vicinity are concerned, is not completely isolated but none are nearer than 1.km and only one is a round

barrow. This was PRN 3628 which lay 1.6km southwest of the ring ditch. It no longer exits and was probably destroyed during the construction of Templeton Airfield during World War II.

5.3.8 The gullies that crosscut the ring ditch, [111] and [117], are obviously later and considering the fill of [117] contained a sherd of post-medieval pot, possibly of modern origin, but gullies [121], [123] and [125] are problematic in that they have no physical relationship with the ring ditch and no pot sherds were recovered from their fills. It is feasible that they are of prehistoric date but equally they could be later; possibly part of drainage features within the bailey that enclosed Sentence Castle but more likely associated with [111] and [117] and therefore post-medieval in date.

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#### **APPENDIX A:**

## THE PLANT REMAINS FROM TEMPLETON RING DITCH [201]

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#### A1 Introduction

A1.1 Five bulk samples from the primary fill of a ring ditch at Templeton, Pembrokeshire were received for processing and the retrieval of plant remains.

#### A2 Method

A2.1 The five samples were sieved in the laboratory using the wash over method, the flots were collected on 2mm, 1mm, 500µm and 250µm sieves, the residues were collected on 2mm and 250µm sieves, all samples were dried prior to sorting. The samples were sorted and identified using a Wild M5 microscope. Identification was by reference to standard texts and modern seed collection. The nomenclature and ecological information is based on Stace (1995).

#### A3 Results (Table 1)

#### Sample 2001, Context 103

The sample produced a small quantity of charred plant remains, a small fragment of cereal too badly preserved to be identified to species was present, along with *Corylus avellana* L. (hazel) nut shell fragments and a fragment of *Plantago* sp. (plantain). A small flint flake was also present.

#### Sample 2002, Context 107

This sample produced an assemblage of plant remains similar to Sample 2001 Context 103. Plant remains included a cereal fragment too badly preserved to be identified to. Weed seeds were represented by *Plantago lanceolata* L. (ribwort plantain) and Poaceae (grass). A small flint flake was also present in this sample.

#### Sample 2003, Context 110

A small quantity of identifiable cereal, with *Hordeum* sp. (barley), *Triticum* sp. (wheat) and *Avena* sp. (oat) grains were present, an *Avena* sp. awn fragment was also present. *Corylus avellana* L. (hazel) nut shell fragments were present. Other remains included Poaceae sp. (grass) seeds and rhizome remains and a flint flake.

#### Sample 2004, Context 116,

This sample produced Poaceae (grass) caryopsis and a rhizome fragment.

#### Sample 2005, Context 120

This sample produced one indeterminate fragment of cereal.

#### A4 Discussion

- A4.1 The overall quantity of plant remains from the five samples was sparse, however the presence of wheat, barley and oat grains in Sample 2003, Context 110 indicates that arable agriculture was practiced in the area, the cereal grains may have entered the ditch through the burning and disposal of domestic refuse. The grass and plantain seeds may have been weed seeds associated with the cereal remains or material accidentally burned.
- A4.2 The hazel nut shell fragments may have entered the ditch along with the cereal remains and as such represent a food source or they may have been gathered with wood used for fuel.

#### A5 Conclusion

A5.1 Although the assemblage from the five samples was small, it has provided evidence of identifiable cereal remains along with seeds associated with a grassland environment. The hazel nut shell fragments would provide good material for C14 dating if necessary.

Stace, C., 1995. *New Flora of the British Isles*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.

Sample	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	
Context	103	107	110	116	120	
Volume/litre	107	7.5	20.5	15.5	7.5	
Hordeum sp indet	-	-	1	-	-	A
(Barley)						
Triticum sp.	-	-	1	-	-	А
(Wheat)						
Avena sp.	-	-	1	-	-	A
(Oat)						
Avena sp. – awn frag	-	-	2	-	-	A
Cereal indet.	1	1	-	-	1	A
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.	6	-	7	-	-	W
(Hazel) nut shell frag						
<i>Crategus monogyna</i> Jacq.	-	1	-	-	-	W
(Hawthorn)						
Lamiaceae	1	-	-	-	-	
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i> L.	-	2	-	-	-	G
(Ribwort plantain)						
Plantago sp.	1	-	-	-	-	G
(Plantain)						
Poaceae	-	1	3	1	-	G, H,
(Grass)						M, W,
Rhizome indet.	5	-	21	1	-	
Flint flake	1	-	1	-	-	

## Table A1

Habitat preferences; A = arable & cultivated; G = grass; H = heaths; M = marshes, fens, bogs; W = woods, hedgerows, scrub.

#### **APPENDIX B:**

# POTTERY FROM THE EXCAVATIONS AT TEMPLETON VILLAGE GREEN, PEMBROKESHIRE: 2015-2017. (ERN: 107550).

Dee Williams 2019

#### B1 Methodology

- B1.1 The pottery was assessed in context order.
- B1.2 Quantification: A sherd count and weight was undertaken. 43 sherds were present, weighing a total of 409g. They represent a minimum of eleven vessels based on the number of rims and on other diagnostic features where a rim is lacking. Where sherds were seen to join, they were counted as one. Many of the sherds that were recovered are heavily abraded and none of the pieces can be reconstructed.
- B1.2 Where possible, the fabric types follow the series that was used by Paul Courtney for material recovered from excavations in 2010. Additional information is from the fabric series that was established for Carmarthen Greyfriars (O'Mahoney, 1995).

#### B2 Summary

- B2.1 The earliest pottery is Medieval, late C12th to C15th. The post-medieval pottery, recovered from unstratified contexts, is C17th to C19th. The assessment of this most recent assemblage confirms all previous dating at the site.
- B2.2 The medieval pottery comprises a limited range of fabrics that are predominantly local in content. They include handmade cooking pots and jugs in Dyfed gravel-tempered ware (for a definition of the fabric see O'Mahoney 1985), and a small number of sherds from at least one Llanstephan-type ware jug (See O'Mahoney 1995, types B9-B12). Amongst the gravel-tempered wares there are parts of vessels that may be from cooking pots made in North Devon (O'Mahoney 1995, type B6). Certain of the rim profiles are very similar to products from that region and the two areas share a very similar geology which makes identification difficult. There were no continental imported wares in this recent assemblage.
- B2.3 C17th-C18th century vessels are regional imports from North Devon and Bristol/Staffordshire. A single sherd of C19th creamware is most likely a product of the Staffordshire Potteries.

#### FABRIC SERIES

#### <u>Medieval</u>

## **DGTU – Dyfed Gravel-Tempered Unglazed (O'Mahoney 1995, A types).** Total sherds 22 (178g).

Forms present: Cooking pots.

Fabric: See Paul Courtney's 2010 report.

Date: Late C12th-C15th.

## **DGTG – Dyfed Gravel-Tempered Glazed (O'Mahoney 1995, A types).** Total sherds 8 (120g).

Forms present: Jugs.

Fabric: See Paul Courtney's 2010 report.

Date: Late C12th-C15th.

## LLAJ – Llanstephan Jugs (O'Mahoney 1995, types B9-B12). Total sherds 5 (9g).

Forms present: Jug.

Fabric: See Paul Courtney's 2010 report.

Date: C13th-C14th, possibly into C15th.

North Devon/DGTU? Total sherds 2 (14g).

Forms present: Cooking pots.

Fabric: Handmade cooking pots in a coarse fabric in which quartz inclusions predominate. Cooking pots from North Devon were present at Carmarthen Greyfriars (O'Mahoney 1995, type B6).

Date: Medieval, 1200-1500.

## <u>Post-medieval</u>

**NDGT – North Devon Gravel Tempered Ware (O'Mahoney 1995, type B39).** Total sherds 2 (76g).

Forms present: Internally glazed utility wares.

Fabric: See Paul Courtney's 2010 report.

Date: The main period of importation into Wales is C17th-C18th.

## **B/S Mottled – Bristol/Staffordshire Mottled Ware (O'Mahoney 1995, type B59).** Total sherds 1 (1g).

Forms present: Tankard sometimes referred to as Ale Mug.

Fabric: A hard buff ware with a brown mottled glaze covering both surfaces. Bristol or Staffordshire are two possible sources but other areas were producing the same wares.

Date: Late C16th-C18th (c.1680-1760).

#### CREA – Creamware.

Forms present: Dish or shallow bowl.

Fabric: Industrially-produced earthenware most probably from the Staffordshire Potteries.

Date: C19th.

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## Pottery Fabrics by Context (Abbreviations after Courtney 2010 and O'Mahoney 1995).

## 2015: Excavation of large medieval ditch.

#### Context: Unstratified.

Fabric	Sherd	Weight	Comments	Date
	Count			
DGTU - Dyfed Gravel-tempered unglazed ware	2	42g	Cooking pot(s) body and base sherds.	Medieval
DGTG - Dyfed Gravel-tempered glazed ware	1	39g	Jug strap handle. Illustrate.	Medieval
Total	3	81g		

## Context: Unstratified from amorphous anomaly area.

Fabric	Sherd	Weight	Comments	Date
	Count	Count		
DGTG - Dyfed Gravel-tempered glazed ware	2	12g	Jug body sherds, heavily abraded.	Medieval
CREA - Creamware	1	8g	Dish or shallow bowl with incomplete rim profile.	C19th
Total	3	20 g		

Also U/S: 1 small amorphous piece of fired clay (2g); 1 cattle tooth (11g).

## Context: (4)

Fabric	Sherd	Weight	Comments	Date
	Count			
DGTG - Dyfed Gravel-tempered glazed ware	1	6g	Jug body sherd, heavily abraded.	Medieval
Total	1	6g		

## Context: (103)

Fabric	Sherd	Weight	Comments	Date
	Count			
DGTU - Dyfed Gravel-tempered unglazed ware	2	9g	Cooking pot(s) body and base sherds.	Medieval
DGTG - Dyfed Gravel-tempered glazed ware	1	11g	Jug? Heavily abraded body sherd.	Medieval

LLAJ - Llanstephan jugs	4	6g	Jug. Heavily abraded body sherds.	C13th-C14th
Total	7	26g		

## Context: (104)

Fabric	Sherd	Weight	Comments	Date
	Count			
DGTU - Dyfed Gravel-tempered unglazed ware	15	79g	Cooking pots: 1 rim, 13 body, 1 base. Illustrate rim.	Medieval
Total	15	79g		

## Context: (105)

Fabric	Sherd	Weight	Comments	Date
	Count			
DGTU - Dyfed Gravel-tempered unglazed ware	3	48g	Cooking pots: 3 rims representing 3 vessels. Illustrate.	Medieval
DGTG - Dyfed Gravel-tempered glazed ware	2	48g	Jugs? Heavily abraded body sherds.	Medieval
Total	5	96g		

## 2017: Excavation of Ring-Ditch 2017

#### Context: Unstratified.

Fabric	Sherd	Weight	Comments	Date
	Count			
North Devon Medieval/DGTU - Dyfed Gravel-tempered unglazed ware?	1	11g	Cooking pot rim comparable to types found at Carmarthen Greyfriars (O'Mahoney 1995, type B6).	Medieval
LLAJ - Llanstephan jugs	1	3g	Jug – heavily abraded body sherd.	C13th-C14th
NDGT - North Devon Gravel tempered ware	2	76g	Bowl rim and other indeterminate internally glazed body sherds.	C17th-C18th
NDGF – North Devon Gravel-free ware	2	3g	Indeterminate internally glazed body.	C17th-C18th
B/S Mottled ware (O'Mahoney 1995, type B59)	1	1	Tankard – glazed body sherd.	Late C17th-C18th
Total	7	94g		

Also U/S: 1 fragment of C17th/C18th wine bottle glass (3g).

## Context: (112)

Fabric	Sherd	Weight	Comments	Date
	Count			
DGTG - Dyfed Gravel-tempered glazed ware	1	4g	Jug – heavily abraded body sherd.	Medieval
Total	1	4g		

## Context: (118)

Fabric	Sherd	Weight	Comments	Date
	Count			
North Devon Medieval (O'Mahoney 1995, type B6)	1	3g	Indeterminate body.	Medieval
Total	1	3g		

## APPENDIX C: RESULTS OF RADIOCARBON DATING FROM RING DITCH [201

#### C1 Summary of Radiocarbon Dates

- C1.1 The following radiocarbon dates (Table B1 and subsequent radiocarbon dating certificates) have been provided by SUERC (Scottish Universities Environmental Research Council).
- C1.2 The calibrated ranges have been determined from the University of Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit calibration programme (OxCal v4.3) (Tables C1).

#### Table B1Radiocarbon dates for

Lab Code	Context/ Sample	Fill description	Radiocarbon Age BP:	Calibrated range at 2 sigma (95.4% probability):	Period
SUERC-85209	210/2002	Primary fill of ring ditch	2227±21	377 (15.8%) 346cal BC 322 (79.6%) 206cal BC	c.377-322 BC Iron Age
SUERC-85210	210/2003	Primary fill of ring ditch	2249±24	391 (31.6%) 350cal BC 311 (63.8%) 209cal BC	c. 391-311 BC Iron Age

#### **C2 Radiocarbon Dating Certificates**





#### RADIOCARBON DATING CERTIFICATE 25 March 2019

Laboratory Code	SUERC-85209 (GU50534)
Submitter	Fran Murphy
	Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd
	Corner House
	6 Carmarthen Street
	Llandeilo, Carms
	SA19 6AE
Site Reference	Templeton
Context Reference	210
Sample Reference	2002
Material	Nut Shell Fragment : Corylus avellana L. (Hazel)
δ <sup>13</sup> C relative to VPDB	-24.1 ‰

**Radiocarbon Age BP**  $2227 \pm 21$ 

The above 4C age is quoted in conventional years BP (before 1950 AD) and requires calibration to the N.B. calendar timescale. The error, expressed at the one sigma level of confidence, includes components from the counting statistics on the sample, modern reference standard and blank and the random machine error.

Samples with a SUERC coding are measured at the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre AMS Laboratory and should be quoted as such in any reports within the scientific literature. The laboratory GU coding should also be given in parentheses after the SUERC code.

Detailed descriptions of the methods employed by the SUERC Radiocarbon Laboratory can be found in Dunbar et al. (2016) Radiocarbon 58(1) pp.9-23.

For any queries relating to this certificate, the laboratory can be contacted at suere-cl4lab@glasgow.ac.uk

Conventional age and calibration age ranges calculated by :

E Dunbar

Checked and signed off by : P. Nayout



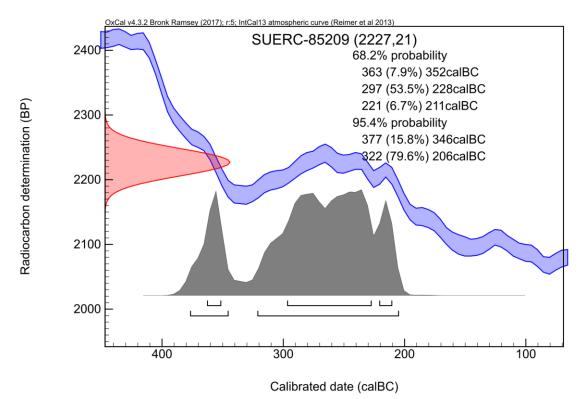


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## **Calibration Plot**

Context Reference: 210

Sample reference: 2002







#### RADIOCARBON DATING CERTIFICATE 25 March 2019

SUERC-85210 (GU50535)
Fran Murphy Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd Corner House 6 Carmarthen Street Llandeilo, Carms SA19 6AE
Templeton 210 2003 Seed : Triticum Grain -21.2 ‰

Radiocarbon Age BP  $2249 \pm 24$ 

The above 14C age is quoted in conventional years BP (before 1950 AD) and requires calibration to the N.B. calendar timescale. The error, expressed at the one sigma level of confidence, includes components from the counting statistics on the sample, modern reference standard and blank and the random machine error.

Samples with a SUERC coding are measured at the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre AMS Laboratory and should be quoted as such in any reports within the scientific literature. The laboratory GU coding should also be given in parentheses after the SUERC code.

Detailed descriptions of the methods employed by the SUERC Radiocarbon Laboratory can be found in Dunbar et al. (2016) Radiocarbon 58(1) pp.9-23.

For any queries relating to this certificate, the laboratory can be contacted at suerc-c14lab@glasgow.ac.uk.

Conventional age and calibration age ranges calculated by : \_\_\_\_\_

Checked and signed off by : P. Nayout



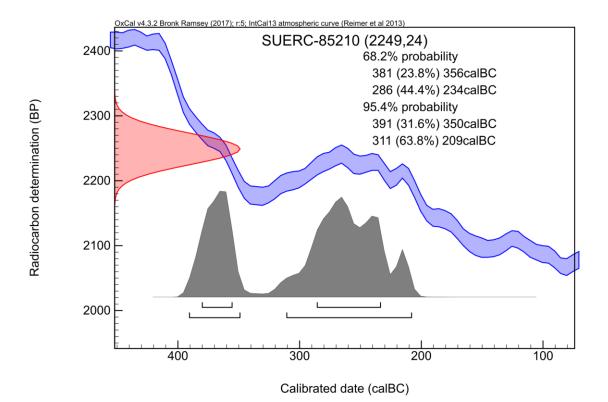


The University of Edinburgh is a charitable registered in Scotland, with registration number SC005336

## **Calibration Plot**

Context Reference: 210

Sample reference: 2003



DAT Archaeological Services

#### APPENDIX D

## LAND NORTH OF THE VILLAGE GREEN, 'KNIGHTS COURT', TEMPLETON, PEMBROKESHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION

#### **REVISED JULY 2017**

#### WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

#### D1 INTRODUCTION

- D1.1 This revised written scheme of investigation presents a proposed methodology for the remaining archaeological mitigation required to be implemented during the proposed residential development on land north of the Village Green, Templeton, Pembrokeshire (NGR SN 1120 1155; Figure 1). The site is now called 'Knights Court'. Previously the site has been subject to a geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation in 2010 which indicated the presence of significant archaeological remains within the proposed development area. Further building recording, watching briefs and a small area excavation were undertaken in late 2014 and early 2015.
- D1.2 The development will comprise the construction of 21 residential units covering the northern and western parts of the site area, with a large extension of the existing village green extending into the southeastern part of the site. The original approved planning (13/0310/PA) was submitted by JEBB Homes, but the site was latterly taken over by G D Harries and Sons, and a new planning application was submitted and approved (16/0539/PA). A new condition regarding archaeology was attached to this planning permission which states:

'Within 2 months of the date of this permission, details of a programme of archaeological work, together with a timescale for its implementation shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The development shall be carried out in accordance with these details.'

- D1.3 This revised written scheme of investigation includes information on the previous archaeological works undertaken at the site and those tasks that are still outstanding. A provisional indication of timescales is also provided.
- D1.4 A written scheme of investigation was prepared and approved by Pembrokeshire County Council for the original planning application in 2014, and partially implemented before the original developers (JEBB Homes) ceased trading. This WSI addressed a brief for archaeological work prepared by the Planning Services section of Dyfed Archaeological Trust (now called Development Management) in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the planning authority.
- D1.5 The proposed archaeological works at the site included the following elements:
  - A Photographic Survey of Building on frontage:
  - B Watching brief: Access road and site strip:
  - C Excavation within House Plot 5 Medieval Ditch;
  - **D** Watching Brief during in the western half of the site area;
  - E Excavation of area within Plots 11 and 12 Ring Ditch; and
  - F Reporting and preparation of an archive

- D1.6 By early 2015 items A Photographic survey, B- watching brief on access road and item C excavation of House Plot 5 had all been undertaken. Items D to F are yet to be undertaken.
- D1.7 An additional document was prepared in August 2016 to summarise the works undertaken at the site at that time, which was used in support of the new planning application for development of the site submitted by G D Harries (Planning App 16/0539/PA) which is included below.
- D1.8 This written scheme of archaeological investigation is in accordance with the relevant Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance (CIfA 2014) and adheres to their Code Of Conduct (CIfA 2014). The mitigation will include elements of watching brief, excavation, post-excavation analysis and reporting, and the preparation of an archive.
- D1.9 The Trust always operates to best professional practice. Dyfed Archaeological Trust has its own Health and Safety Policy, and all works are covered by appropriate Employer's Liability and Public Liability Insurances. Copies of all are available on request.
- D1.10 **Dyfed Archaeological Trust is an CIfA Registered Archaeological Organisation**.
- D1.11 All permanent staff members of DAT Archaeological Services are CSCS<sup>6</sup> registered.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Construction Skills Certification Scheme (Health and Safety Tested)

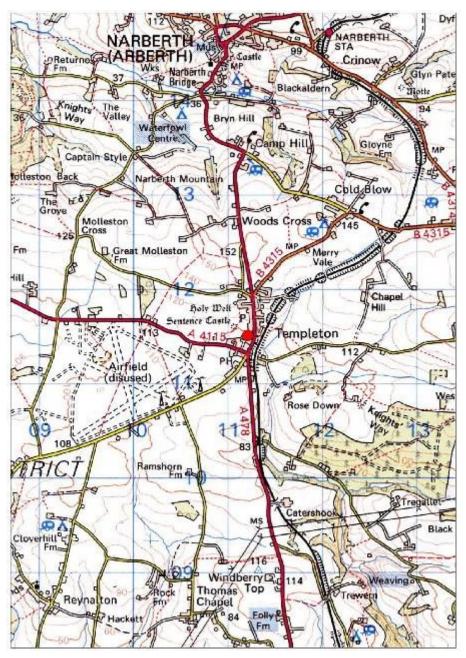


Figure 1: Location map, based on the Ordnance Survey.

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 scale Landranger Map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd., The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF. Licence No 100020930

## D2. AIM AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

D2.1 This document provides a scheme of works for:

The implementation of the remaining schemes of archaeological mitigation required at the site, to include watching brief and the excavation of the ring ditch on the western side of the site area during the proposed residential development on land north of the Village Green, Templeton, Pembrokeshire. A report on the results and archive will be prepared.

- D2.2 The following tasks will be completed:
  - Provision of the revised written scheme of investigation to outline the methodology by which DAT Archaeological Services will complete the archaeological mitigation (this document);
  - To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits;
  - To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed works;
  - To appropriately investigate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works;
  - To produce an archive and report of any results.

## D3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- D3.1 The following summarises the results of the evaluation which was commissioned from DAT Archaeological Services (formerly Field Services) by Owen & Owen Chartered Surveyors (obo. Mr B. Lewis of the Henllan Estate), pre-determination of the planning application for the residential development.
- D3.2 The archaeological evaluation comprised a geophysical survey of the entire site area (Poucher 2010) followed by the excavation of 11 trenches across the 1.32ha site (Meek 2010).
- D3.3 The results of the evaluations (Figures 2, 3, 4 & 5) were summarised as follows:

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services were commissioned by Owen & Owen Chartered Surveyors (obo. Mr B. Lewis of the Henllan Estate) to carry out an archaeological evaluation in advance of proposed residential development of a parcel of land to the north of the Village Green, Templeton, Pembrokeshire (Planning Application No. 09/0188/PA; NGR SN 1120 1155). The proposed development area lies to the east of Sentence Castle, a medieval Motte castle and Scheduled Ancient Monument. The castle is thought to have been established in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, and would have been a focal point for an extended settlement in the vicinity which has evolved into the village of Templeton as it exists today. The medieval street plan of the village is partially fossilised in the current village layout, comprising properties along the main north-south road, with rectangular plot boundaries running east-west from the road line. The name of Templeton is derived from the 'Templar's Town' based on the establishment of a Knights Templar Hospice on the site of the present church (to the east of the site area), for which there is documentary evidence. Given the site's location it was considered that there was a potential for important archaeological remains to survive within the development area that could be adversely affected by the proposed development, and thus the requirement for pre-determination evaluation was placed on the development proposals.

The pre-determination evaluation was undertaken in two phases, the first being a geophysical survey undertaken in January 2010, and the second, a trial trench evaluation undertaken in April 2010 comprising 11 trenches. The geophysical survey indicated the presence of a number of east-west and north-south field boundaries, a ring ditch in the south-western part of the site, and anomalies indicative of possible settlement activity along the eastern side of the site near the road frontage.

The trial trench evaluation confirmed the presence of features representative of almost all the geophysical survey anomalies, most of which would appear to be of archaeological origin. The features are concentrated in three main areas: one on the south-western part of the site area, around the ring ditch and adjacent ditch (Trench 9 and 10); an area in the northern part of the centre of the site, where a pair of east to west gullies were recorded together with other ditches and a posthole (Trenches 6 and 7); and on the south-eastern frontage of the site where remains of a stone building, numerous gullies and a possible posthole were recorded (Trenches 3, 4 and 5). No archaeological features were visible within the trenches placed in the north-western part of the area (Trench 11), the central southern area (Trench 8) or the north-eastern part of the site (Trenches 1 and 2). The potential for archaeological remains to be present beyond the boundaries of the evaluation trenches cannot be discounted.

The evaluation demonstrated that archaeological remains exist at a shallow depth below the ground surface (generally less than 0.60m below the present ground surface). The ring-ditch in the south-western area is most likely of prehistoric date, and may be a Bronze Age round barrow (burial mound) or an Iron Age roundhouse. The east-west linear features seen within the central area of the site are likely to cross the entire site area (as suggested by the geophysical survey) and may represent the original line of medieval burgage plot boundaries extending back from the street frontage almost as far back as Sentence Castle. The archaeological remains on the south-eastern side of the site appear to represent settlement activity that dates from the 17<sup>th</sup> century at the latest. (Meek 2010)

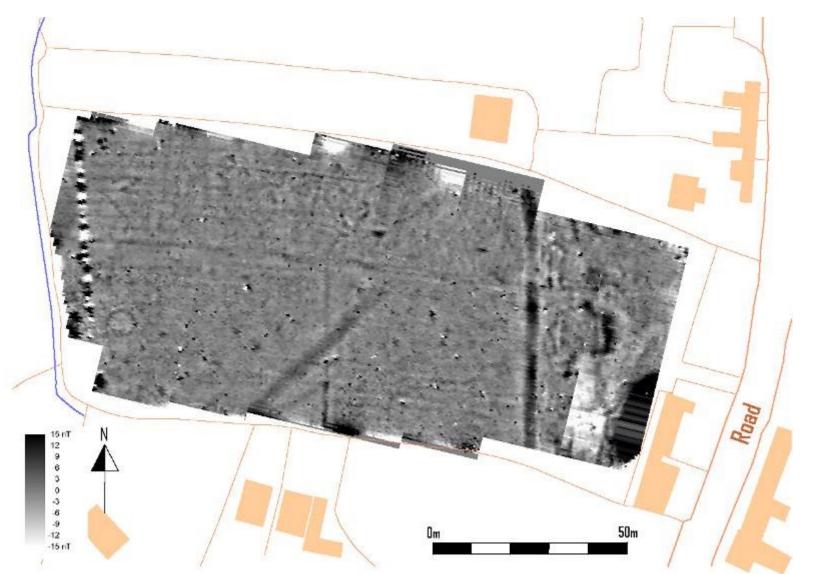
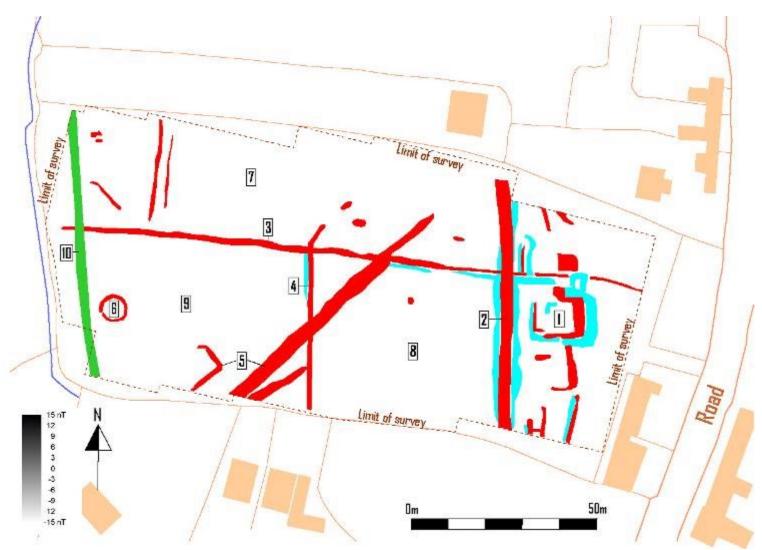


Figure 2: The processed geophysical survey result, grey-scale, overlaid on local topographical features (Poucher 2010/Meek 2010).

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**Figure 3:** Interpretation of the geophysical survey. Numbers relate to 'Geophysical Interpretation' section in the main text, red highlights the main positive magnetic anomalies, blue highlights the main negative magnetic anomalies and green the main bipolar anomalies. (Poucher 2010/Meek 2010)

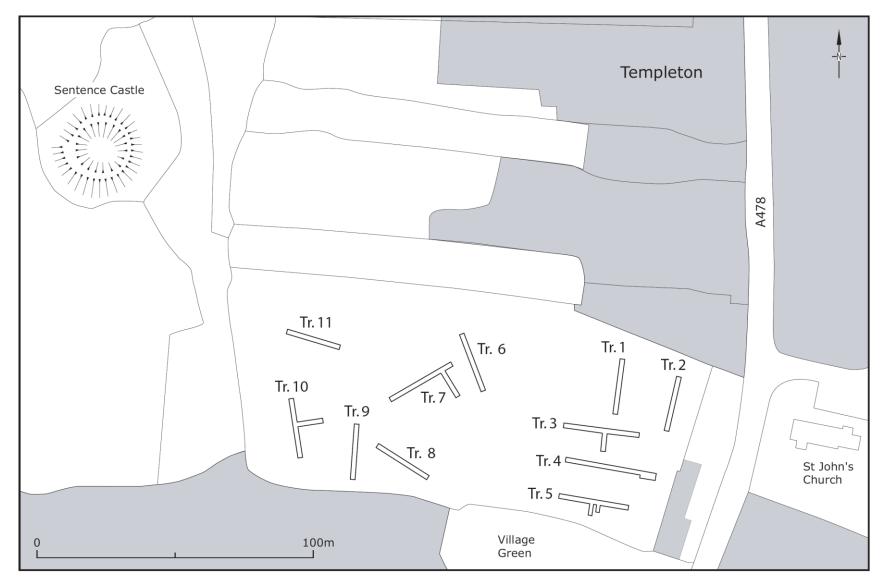


Figure 4: Trench Location Plan in relation to Sentence Castle (Meek 2010)

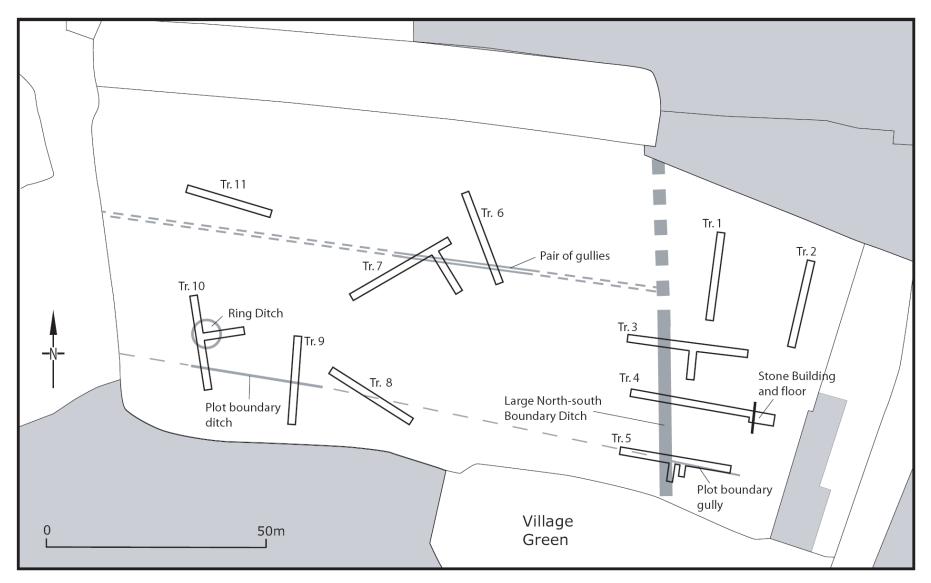


Figure 5: Trench Plan showing layout of main features (Meek 2010)

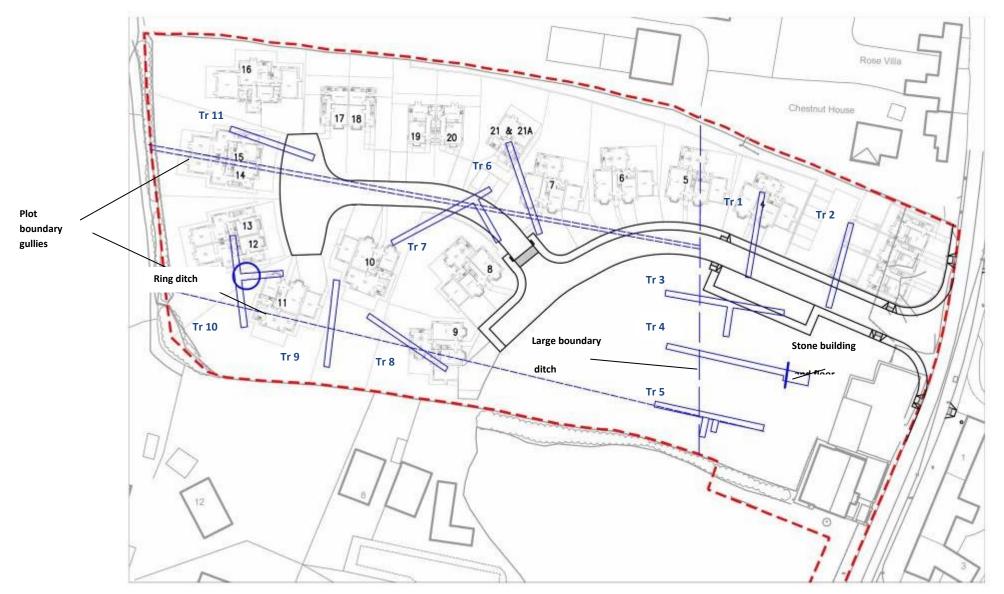


Figure 6: Trenches and features overlaid on development proposal plan (supplied by client 28\_07\_2017)

## D4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION ALREADY COMPLETED

## A Photographic Survey of Building on frontage

D4.1 Building recording was undertaken on the former barn on the street frontage on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2014. The works included a photographic survey of the structure, hand drawn plans / elevations and a written description (Photos 1 & 2; Figure 7).



Photo 1: View southwest across eastern façade of former barn



Photo 2: Internal view of northern gable end of barn

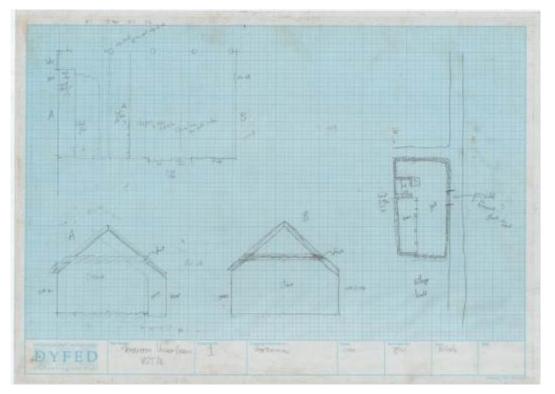


Figure 7: Elevations, floor plan and sketch layout plan of former barn

## **B** Watching brief: Access road and site strip (Completed)

- D4.2 A 'watching brief' was undertaken at the commencement of ground works and along the access road on the eastern part of the site, including the floor plan area of the properties on the street frontage.
- D4.3 The watching brief was undertaken intermittently on the 13/11/2014, 18/11/2014, 19/11/2014, 20/11/2014, 01/12/2014 and 16/12/2014. The works included observation of groundworks, hand drawn sections and plans of archaeological features revealed, written descriptions and photographic record (Photos 4, 5 & 6).



Photo 3: View southeast across site of former barn following demolition (13/11/2014)



Photo 4: View southeast across eastern part of access road (18/11/2014)



Photo 5: View south across area of eastern frontage buildings during ground reduction (19/11/2014)

## C Excavation within House Plot 5 – Medieval Ditch (Completed)

D4.4 House Plot 5 was located on the projected line of the large medieval boundary ditch running north to south discovered during the evaluation undertaken in 2010. This area was subject to excavation between 12<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of January, 2015. Initially the area was machine stripped with a graded bucket to the correct archaeological level before being hand cleaned to delineate it for recording prior to excavating two trenches through it (Photo 6).



Photo 6: Machine stripping of western edge (darker material) of large medieval ditch

D4.5 Trench 1 was hand excavated and all deposits were numbered using the openended numbering system in accordance with DAT Archaeological Services Recording Manual<sup>7</sup> and recorded by archaeological recording context sheets. All artefacts were securely located and retrieved from the ditch. Due to difficult working conditions it was decided to excavate Trench 2 with a machine using a graded bucket. Exposed sections of the ditch were recorded by means of measured drawings (Figures 8 & 9) and a photographic record was maintained using a digital camera Photos 7, 8 & 9).



Photo 7: View south west of trench 1 with north facing section visible



Photo 8: North facing section of Trench 1 through ditch

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services use the Recording Manual developed by English Heritage Centre for Archaeology. A copy will be available for inspection if required.



Photo 9: South facing section of Trench 2 after machine excavation through ditch

D4.6 Other features were also identified in the area to the east of the medieval ditch (Photos 10 & 11).



Photo 10: Feature 109 as visible in east facing section.



Photo 11: Area of features to east of the medieval ditch facing east

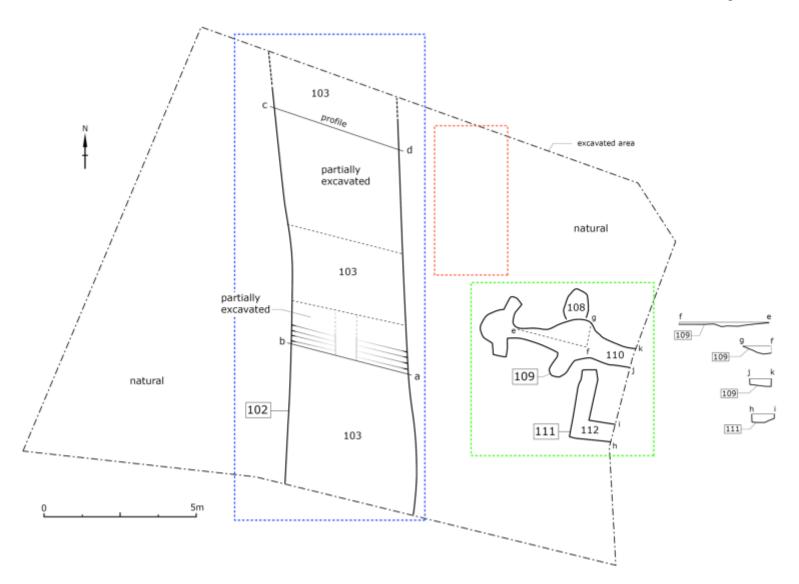


Figure 8: Plan of Excavation Area showing medieval ditch and features to the east

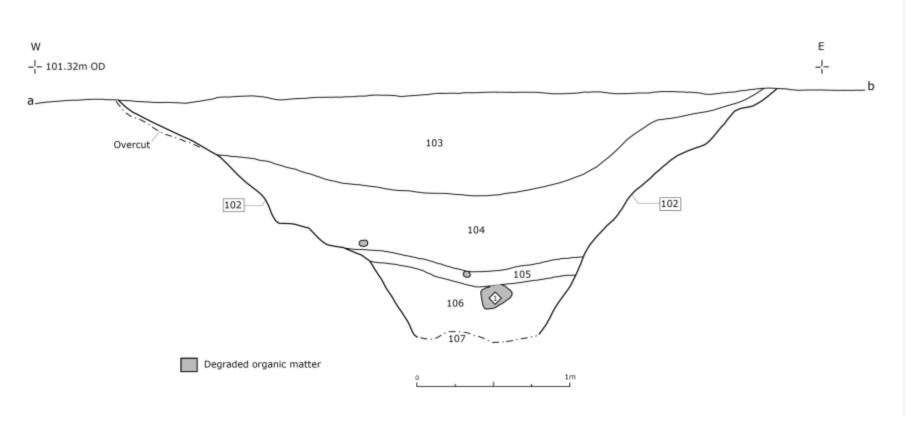


Figure 9: North facing Section of Trench 1, Ditch

#### D5 METHODOLOGY FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS YET TO BE COMPLETED

## **D** Watching Brief during groundworks in the western half of the site

- D5.1 The proposed 'watching brief' should be undertaken at the commencement of ground works on the western side of the site area that have the potential to expose, damage or destroy underlying archaeological remains. This will be concentrated on the area around the ring ditch identified within the location of Plots 11 and 12 during the evaluation. The watching brief would be undertaken during the removal of the spoil heap which presently overlies the ring ditch and also potentially following excavation during topsoil removal of the areas in its vicinity. It is anticipated that the temporary topsoil heap will be moved during the week commencing 28<sup>th</sup> August 2017 and the excavation will be carried out following its removal.
- D5.2 The excavation of all material in the area identified should be undertaken under constant archaeological supervision where the possibility for archaeological remains to be present exists. Sufficient additional time should be allowed within the development timescales to ascertain the presence or absence of significant archaeological features and the excavation and recording of such features (on consultation with the curatorial officer if desired). The removal of this material must be carried out using a mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching/grading bucket.
- D5.3 All areas of potential archaeological remains will be hand cleaned to prove the presence, or absence, of archaeological features and to determine their significance.
- D5.4 The excavation of the minimum number of identified archaeological features needed to elucidate the character, distribution, extent, date and importance of the archaeological remains will be undertaken. This will be agreed with Development Management Dyfed Archaeological Trust.
- D5.5 Features containing deposits of environmental significance will be sampled, if present. The samples will be retained in stable conditions until analysis can be arranged.
- D5.6 All deposits will be recorded by archaeological context record sheet, scale drawing, photography and site notebooks, using the DAT Archaeological Services' Recording Manual. All deposits will be individually recorded and given context numbers. Significant deposits will be recorded by scale drawing (no less than 1:20); drawn plans will be related to Ordnance Datum and known boundaries.
- D5.7 A digital photographic record will be maintained, using a high resolution camera, with photographic information recorded for all photographs taken.
- D5.8 All archaeologically significant artefacts, ecofacts and samples will be retained and, where possible, related to the contexts from which they derived. Sensitive materials will be stored in appropriately stable conditions. Finds will be temporarily stored by DAT Archaeological Services in stable conditions. All finds, except those deemed to be Treasure, will remain the property of the landowner, but it is assumed that permission has been given by the landowner for these to be stored as part of the archive in a suitable repository (ownership will still be with the landowner).
- D5.9 Under the 1996 Treasure Act, "treasure" can be summarised as:
  - Any object other than a coin containing at least 10% gold or silver and at least 300 years old;
  - Any prehistoric assemblage of base metal;

- Coins found together which contain 10% gold or silver (but no single coins) and groups of at least 10 coins of other metals, provided they are at least 300 years old;
- Any object found associated with treasure except unworked natural objects; and
- Any object which would have been Treasure Trove before the 1996 Act but not covered above.
- D5.10 In the event of the discovery of archaeological human remains they will, have to be removed following the granting of a licence for the removal of human remains granted from the Ministry of Justice.
- D5.11 In the event that unforeseen archaeological discoveries are made during the development, or where unexpected archaeological remains of high significance are exposed, the appointed archaeological contractor will have the power to halt any ground works and shall inform the client and Development Management Dyfed Archaeological Trust, and prepare a written statement with plan detailing the archaeological evidence. Following assessment of the archaeological remains by all parties, if required, a contingency scheme for salvage excavation of affected archaeological features may need to be implemented. This event may need to be covered by contingency financial arrangements within the project budgets.

## E Excavation of area within Plots 11 and 12 – Ring Ditch

- D5.12 The area of the ring ditch identified during the evaluation in 2010 is bisected by the boundary between Plots 11 and 12. The area has not been excavated as yet and is covered with a large topsoil heap. As the topsoil heap lies on top of the feature, it would be necessary for an archaeologist to be in attendance during its removal to ensure that the underlying ring ditch is not disturbed. The site strip should be done under full archaeological supervision with a flat bladed bucket. This is likely to be undertaken shortly after the temporary topsoil heap is moved (which is scheduled to start week commencing 28<sup>th</sup> August 2017).
- D5.13 The area of the excavation will measure approximately 15 sq m to cover the ring ditch and the small ditch to the south. The entire area will be hand cleaned to identify the extent of the ring ditch and also prove the presence, or absence of additional archaeological features in the immediate vicinity, and to determine their significance.
- D5.14 At least 50% of the ring ditch will be excavated initially in 1m length sections through the gully, and the sections recorded. The remainder of the feature will be removed following the recording of sections. The excavation of the minimum number of identified archaeological features in the immediate vicinity needed to elucidate the character, distribution, extent, date and importance of the archaeological remains will be undertaken (if present). This will be agreed with Development Management Dyfed Archaeological Trust.
- D5.15 Features containing deposits of environmental significance will be sampled, if present. The samples will be retained in stable conditions until analysis can be arranged.
- D5.16 All deposits will be recorded by archaeological context record sheet, scale drawing, photography and site notebooks, using the DAT Archaeological Services' Recording Manual . All deposits will be individually recorded and given context numbers. Significant deposits will be recorded by scale drawing (no less than 1:20); drawn plans will be related to Ordnance Datum and known boundaries.

- D5.17 A digital photographic record will be maintained as a minimum, using a high resolution camera, with photographic information recorded for all photographs taken.
- D5.18 All archaeologically significant artefacts, ecofacts and samples will be retained and, where possible, related to the contexts from which they derived. Sensitive materials will be stored in appropriately stable conditions. Finds will be temporarily stored by DAT Archaeological Services in stable conditions. All finds, except those deemed to be Treasure, will remain the property of the landowner, but it is assumed that permission has been given by the landowner for these to be stored as part of the archive in a suitable repository (ownership will still be with the landowner).
- D5.19 Under the 1996 Treasure Act, "treasure" can be summarised as:
  - Any object other than a coin containing at least 10% gold or silver and at least 300 years old;
  - Any prehistoric assemblage of base metal;
  - Coins found together which contain 10% gold or silver (but no single coins) and groups of at least 10 coins of other metals, provided they are at least 300 years old;
  - Any object found associated with treasure except unworked natural objects; and
  - Any object which would have been Treasure Trove before the 1996 Act but not covered above.
- D5.20 In the event of the discovery of archaeological human remains they will, have to be removed following the granting of a licence for the removal of human remains granted from the Ministry of Justice.

## **F** Reporting and preparation of an archive

- D5.21 A single report will be produced combining all stages of building recording, watching brief and excavation at the site (including those done previously). An initial assessment of the results may be put together for discussion with the client and Development Management Dyfed Archaeological Trust, to determine the appropriate way forward for full post-excavation analysis. This will include the level of detail required for specialist analysis of all artefacts or ecofacts recovered from the site. Radiocarbon dating may be required. The extent of conservation of any recovered artefacts will also be determined at this stage. The report will be commenced following the completion of the excavation of the ring ditch in house Plots 11 and 12.
- D5.22 The report will be produced detailing the full results of the fieldwork which will be assessed in local, regional and wider contexts. This will include full specialist reports.
- D5.23 Specialists that will be used for the analysis of artefacts and ecofacts are as follows:
  - Animal Bones Alice Day (DAT Archaeological Services)
  - **Environmental / Pollen analysis** Catherine Griffiths (University of Wales Trinity St David)
  - Lithic Analysis Andrew David (Independent Specialist)
  - **Post-medieval / medieval pottery** Dee Brennan (Independent specialist)
  - **Prehistoric Pottery** Dr Alex Gibson (University of Bradford)

- **Radiocarbon dating** Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre (SUERC)
- D5.24 It is anticipated that a summary of, or short report on, the project results, excluding any confidential information, will be prepared for wider dissemination (e.g. Archaeology in Wales and special interest and period-specific journals). A more detailed publication report will also be required to be placed in an appropriate journal or publication.
- D5.25 The grey literature report and specialist reports will be prepared to follow the relevant Standard and Guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014).
- D5.26 Digital copies (and paper copies if required) of the grey literature report will be supplied to the regional Historic Environment Record and Development Management Dyfed Archaeological Trust. Other copies of the report will need to be supplied to the client, the quantity and format to be determined at a later date.
- D5.27 All data recovered during the archaeological works will be collated into a site archive structured in accordance with the specifications in *Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (Brown 2011), and the procedures recommended by the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth. The *National Standards for Wales for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives* produced by the Federation of Museums and Art Galleries of Wales will also be adhered to. Digital archives will be collated using the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales systems (2015) and deposited with the RCAHMW.
- D5.28 The project archive, including all significant artefacts and ecofacts (excepting those which may be deemed to be Treasure) will be deposited with an appropriate body following agreement with the landowner. DAT Archaeological Services will arrange for the deposition of finds, and ascertain the costs of storage and deposition, with an approved body before the project commences and inform Development Management Dyfed Archaeological Trust of the arrangement which has been made.

## D6 STAFF

- D6.1 The project will be managed by J Meek MIFA, Head of DAT Archaeological Services.
- D6.2 The on-site management and supervision will be undertaken by experienced members of DAT Archaeological Services staff (it is anticipated that Charlie Enright will supervise the excavation works, who carried out the excavation of the medieval ditch in Plot 5).

## D7. MONITORING AND TIMETABLING

- D7.1 The works will need to be monitored by the archaeological advisor to the planning authority, Development Management Dyfed Archaeological Trust. Unrestricted access to the site should be allowed to them during the undertaking of all archaeological works.
- D7.2 As noted above, the removal of the temporary topsoil heap which covers the site of the ring ditch (House Plots 11 and 12) is scheduled to start during the week commencing 28<sup>th</sup> August 2017. Thus the watching brief will begin when the topsoil heap is lowered close to ground level. Excavation in area of House Plots 11 and 12, the ring ditch, would happen shortly after this as would the watching brief during ground reduction in the areas surrounding the ring ditch on the

western side of the site area. Post-excavation reporting and analysis will be undertaken following completion of the site works.

#### D8. HEALTH AND SAFETY

- D8.1 All permanent members of DAT Archaeological Services staff are CSCS<sup>8</sup> registered.
- D8.2 DAT Archaeological Services will carry out a health and safety risk assessment to ensure that all potential risks are minimised.
- D8.3 All relevant health and safety regulations must be followed.
- D8.4 All site inductions, H&S procedures, H&S constraints and site rules of the client or any on-site contractor will be made known to DAT Archaeological Services staff at the start of the works.
- D8.5 DAT Archaeological Services have not been informed of any existing services running through the area.
- D8.6 Safety helmets, high visibility vests and boots are to be used by all site personnel as necessary. The developer will make all site staff aware of any other PPE<sup>9</sup> that may be required.
- D8.7 DAT Archaeological Services staff must ensure that their presence on site is communicated to all relevant site staff, especially the machine operator. The archaeologist observing excavation by machine will establish a safe working procedure with the machine operator at the start of work.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Construction Skills Certification Scheme (Health and Safety Tested)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Personal Protection Equipment

