

**ALTERATIONS TO LAVENDER COTTAGE,
LYDSTEP, PEMBROKESHIRE:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF 2015**

(NGR SS 0859 9833)



Prepared by DAT Archaeological Services
For: Thomas John Boucher



DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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Gan / By

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SUMMARY

A planning application was submitted to Pembrokeshire Coast National Park (Planning Application No NP/14/0326) for alterations to be carried out at the rear of Lavender Cottage, Lydstep, Pembrokeshire (centred on NGR SS 0859 9833).

Due to the proximity of Lydstep Palace (PE 403) - situated 40m northeast of the development area - the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Planning Authority, following advice from their archaeological advisors, placed a condition on the planning application.

Although the proposed works do not physically affect Lydstep Palace, a condition was placed upon the development requiring the presence of an archaeologist during ground works because there was potential that archaeological material associated with the historic building may extend into the development area and that any remains surviving as buried archaeological features would be adversely affected by the ground works.

DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Karen Boucher to undertake the archaeological watching brief during ground works associated with the alterations to Lavender Cottage.

A Written Scheme of Investigation outlining the watching brief aims and objectives was prepared by DAT Archaeological Services and was approved by the archaeological advisor to the planning authority.

A single visit to monitor the ground works was made on January 21st 2015.

The development area, measuring approximately 6.0m by 9.0m, was compromised by the shattered remains of a concrete floor extending 4.0m out from the rear of the house and a hitherto unknown concrete septic tank with its associated pipe-work at the east end of the site.

No features, finds or deposits of archaeological significance were revealed during the watching brief. Thus the ground works have had a minimal impact on the buried archaeological resource. Nevertheless, this does not preclude the possibility that significant archaeological remains exist in the vicinity of the development.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Commission

1.1.1 DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Thomas John Boucher to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with alterations to the rear of Lavender Cottage, Lydstep, Pembrokeshire (centred on SS 0859 9833, Figure 1).

1.1.2 The requirement for the archaeological works was placed as a condition on planning permission for this development (Planning application No. NP/14/0326) recommended by the archaeological advisors ¹ to Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC).

1.1.3 The archaeological condition states:

The developer shall appoint an archaeological contractor not less than three weeks prior to the commencement of any ground disturbance on site and shall afford him or any other archaeologist nominated by the Local Planning Authority access at all reasonable times in order to observe the excavations and record archaeological remains uncovered during the work. An archaeological brief shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Work must be carried out in accordance with the approved scheme. Reason: To ensure the recording of times of archaeological interest to accord with Policy 84 of the Joint Unitary Development Plan for Pembrokeshire (adopted 13 July 2006)

1.1.4 Due to the proximity of Lydstep Palace to the development area (40m to the northeast), a recommendation for an archaeological watching brief was placed on the planning application to monitor the ground works during the early stages of the development.

1.1.5 The proposed works included the lifting of a concrete floor (the remains of a former conservatory) and the removal of garden soil from the rest of the development area down to undisturbed natural layers.

1.2 Scope of Project

1.2.1 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for a watching brief was prepared by DAT Archaeological Services prior to the commencement of works. The WSI was commissioned by Thomas John Boucher. The WSI outlined methodologies for:

- monitoring ground works in order to identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits
- establishing the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works
- appropriately investigating and recording any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works
- producing an archive and report of any results by which the watching brief should be undertaken.

¹ Dyfed Archaeological Trust Planning Services – Heritage Management.

1.3 Report Outline

- 1.3.1 This report provides a summary and discussion of the archaeological watching brief and its results.

1.4 Abbreviations

- 1.4.1 Sites recorded on the Regional Historic Environment Record² (HER) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR). Sites recorded by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) Cofelin database are identified by their National Primary Record Number (NPRN); Dyfed Archaeological Trust Heritage Management – DAT-HM; Scheduled Ancient Monument – SAM; Written Scheme of Investigation – WSI.

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 –	c.450,000 – 10,000 BC	Prehistoric
Mesolithic –	c. 10,000 – 4400 BC	
Neolithic –	c.4400 – 2300 BC	
Bronze Age –	c.2300 – 700 BC	
Iron Age –	c.700 BC – AD 43	
Roman (Romano-British) Period –	AD 43 – c. AD 410	Historic
Post-Roman / Early Medieval Period –	c. AD 410 – AD 1086	
Medieval Period –	1086 – 1536	
Post-Medieval Period ³ –	1536 – 1750	
Industrial Period –	1750 – 1899	
Modern –	20 th century onwards	

Table 1: Archaeological and Historical Timeline for Wales.

² Held and managed by Dyfed Archaeological Trust, The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo SA19 6AF.

³ 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



Figure 1: Site location based on Ordnance Survey.

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 scale Explorer Map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office,
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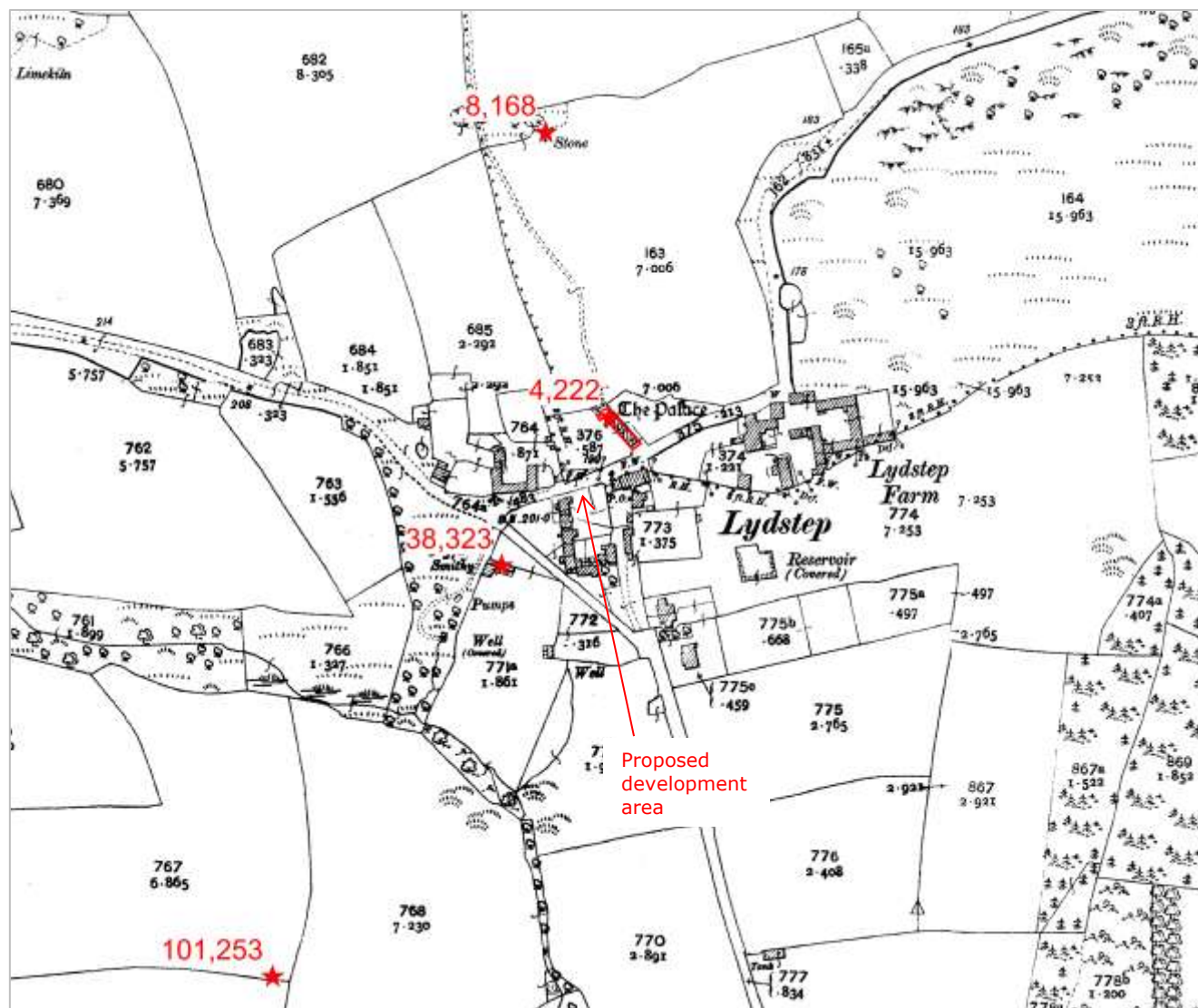


Figure 2: Extract of the second edition Ordnance Survey 1907 1:2500 map, showing archaeological and historical sites recorded on the Dyfed HER within 300m of the development area. Detailed site descriptions are listed in Table 2.

PRN No.	NPRN No.	Name	Description	National Grid Ref	Period	Designation
4222	94164	LYDSTEP PALACE	Medieval house thought to be 14 th – 15 th century in date, traditionally known as the 'Place of Arms', perhaps becoming mutated to 'palace'. Probably the place where the manorial court of Manorbier and Penally was held. An elongated building containing first-floor hall and possible parlour and vaulted undercroft in two unequal sections. Limestone masonry with slate roof. Associated with Bishop Gower and Anchor Llawhir, king of Dyfed. Grade I Listed Building Ref No: 5991	SS 0863 9837	Medieval	Scheduled Ancient Monument PE 403
8168		LYDSTEP	Possible round barrow, 16m in diameter and 0.2m high, at the southeast corner of a rectangular enclosure shown on the 1974 Ordnance Survey 1:10000 map	SS 0859 9854	Bronze Age	
38323		WEST LODGE	Possible round barrow, 16m in diameter and 0.2m high, at the southeast corner of a rectangular enclosure shown on the 1974 Ordnance Survey 1:10000 map Grade II Listed Building Ref No: 20898	SS 0856 9830	Modern	
101253		RAF MANORBIER	Site of pillbox described by RJC Thomas in 1993 as, semi sunken, irregular hexagon, fair-faced brick, earth covered and re-inforced concrete roof. Wall thickness of 18. Entrance in west wall protected by brick blast wall. All remaining walls fitted with wide splayed concrete embrasures with 'Turnbull' mountings. When visited in 2013 it had little changed from the photographs taken by RLC Thomas in 1993.	SS 0842 9807	Modern	

Table 2: Known archaeological and historical sites recorded on the regional HER and RCAHMW Coflein database within 300m of the development area. Location map of listed sites is shown in Figure 2.

LANDMAP Historic Landscape	Description
<p>Aspect Area Name Lydstep</p> <p>Aspect Area Classification Built environment/ Settlement/ Nucleated Settlement/ Clustered Settlement - C19th/20th (Level 4)</p> <p>Area Aspect Code PMBRKHL46075</p>	<p>Nineteenth century, early 20th century and modern buildings flank the small ruins of Lydstep Palace in the centre of the village. Red roofing tile, probably influenced by the Lydstep estate and rough-dressed limestone are a feature of the village. Most significant archaeological element(s): Medieval, ruined Lydstep Palace. This very small historic landscape character area comprises just Lydstep village. It lies at about 50m above sea level, approximately 1km from the coast, and essentially consists of an unplanned cluster of buildings along the A4139. Local limestone is the universal building material. Lydstep Palace, a ruined but recently conserved late medieval stone-vaulted building lies at the village core. Nineteenth century buildings are of stone with slate roofs and comprise a few two storey houses and old agricultural buildings. Although the houses are in the vernacular tradition, their large window openings and symmetry of design acknowledge the polite "Georgian" style. However, the red tile roofs and the use of rough-dressed limestone in early 20th century buildings characterise the village. The Lydstep estate was probably responsible for introducing this style into the village, perhaps with the construction of the Arts and Crafts style West Lodge in 1912. Red tile is now used on the public house, a large range of old farm buildings converted to holiday accommodation, and recently constructed houses. In the latter example white painted cement render and redbrick detailing emphasises the red tile roofs. Estate influence is also evident in the use of rough-dressed limestone in gateposts and some boundary walls. Other buildings include mid-20th century bungalows. Modern detached housing is spreading down the track towards Lydstep House. This is a distinct and well-defined area, and contrasts with the neighbouring landscape of farms and fields and holiday development.</p>

Table 3: National Resource Wales LANDMAP – Characterisation of Lydstep Historic landscape

2. THE SITE

2.1 Location

- 2.1.1 Lavender Cottage is situated close to the centre of the village of Lydstep, adjacent to the A4139. A summary of the existing character of Lydstep village is contained within the LANDMAP Historic Landscape report. The relevant extract is given in Table 3.
- 2.1.2 The proposed alterations to Lavender Cottage (an extension to the existing building) are located in the garden at the rear or west side of the property and is approximately 40m southwest of Lydstep Palace PRN 4222; SAM PE 304 (Figures 1 and 3).
- 2.1.3 The development area measures approximately 7.0m by 10.0m. It is bounded by a stone wall on its northern and eastern sides – the north wall running alongside the A4319. Its southern side is bounded by the garden of the adjacent property, and its western edge fronts the shattered remains of a concrete floor. A low revetment wall stood between the conservatory and the relatively flat garden. The revetment wall had been demolished and a row of evergreen trees alongside the north wall had been felled before commencement of the watching brief. The garden is laid on relatively flat ground.
- 2.1.4 The underlying geology consists of Pool mudstone; sedimentary bedrock of the Ordovician Period.

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 2.2.1 A good outline history of Lydstep is within N D Ludlow's report prepared for Pembrokeshire County Council entitled, 'Lydstep Palace – Archaeological Recording and Structural Analysis 1996'. Appropriate sections of which are printed below.

Lydstep was known at least as a geographical location during the early medieval period is demonstrated by the name itself, which is widely accepted as being of Scandinavian derivation. However, the presence or nature of any pre-Norman settlement at the site is unknown. The Lydstep area lay within the commote of Maenor Pyr which formed part of the Cantref Penfro. With the arrival of Anglo-Normans in South Pembrokeshire at the close the 11th century, Cantref Penfro was re-organised as the Lordship of Pembroke and the greater part of Maenor Pyr granted to one Odo de Barri who, by the early 12th century, appears to have established a barony of Manorbier based at Manorbier Castle. The barony corresponded to the present parishes of Manorbier and Penally.

The medieval barony retained its status within the lordship of Pembroke throughout the medieval period and remained in de Barri hands for most of it. However, the line became extinct in 1392 and by 1461 the barony was in the hands of the crown, as the 'Manor of Manorbier'.

Contemporary references to Lydstep by name are sparse. In 1362 one 'Johannes Loudeshope' (John of Lydstep) held a knight's fee of Sir John Carew at Jeffreyston within the Barony of Carew, but this tells us nothing of Lydstep itself. However, the indications are that Lydstep was formally constituted as a 'vill', ie a manorial settlement; of the mesne lordship and certainly properties are indicated at Lydstep in the early 17th century surveys.

Lydstep Palace is a fine example of a late medieval first floor hall-house over a vaulted basement. The vaulted masonry hall-house still survives in an unusually dense concentration in South Pembrokeshire, and has been seen as the defining late medieval building type of the area. It appears

that such buildings were particularly concentrated in the immediate district. The antiquarian Richard Fenton writing in 1811 notes that the Lydstep area 'was formerly thickly studded with houses, above the rank of such as farmers might have supposed to inhabit, most of them being surrounded with a court entered by an arched gateway, and many built on arches'. The majority of these have now gone.

In summary, the South Pembrokeshire hall-house is a combination of one or all of the following features – construction from the local Carboniferous Limestone, one or more vaulted ground floor chambers, a first floor main entry, unusually early fireplaces (frequently with corbelled flues), corbel tables generally, a marked sparseness of architectural detail coupled with a generally massive aspect, and massive chimneys of varying shapes.

Lydstep Palace is a free-standing, rectangular two-storey building of the local Carboniferous Limestone. The medieval work is characteristic of the late 14th – 16th centuries. It is large in scale, approximately 18m by 16m – larger than many a castle great hall of a similar period – and rather long. It stands alone with no surviving contemporary ancillary buildings or boundary wall, although later structures lie against both ends of the building.

The ground floor survives substantially intact. It comprises of three chambers, all barrel vaulted, the northernmost chamber with a transverse vault. There are a number of openings through the east face, some of them primary. A number of secondary features – fireplaces etc. - are now present, but in its primary form the accommodation was basic and appears to have been solely for storage. There is no evidence of any communication between the ground floor and the first.

The first floor survives less well. Much of the east and north faces are now gone. Internal arrangements comprise a large northern chamber, and two smaller southern chambers, both secondary in their present form. The southernmost displays a large fireplace and chimney on the south wall. Few of the openings on this floor are original, the chambers having been used as dwellings into the last century, though there is much structural evidence for former openings.

The building in its present form is little changed from its condition as described by Barnwell in 1867.

Lydstep Palace, despite its apparent scale and visibly medieval origins has little recorded history. It lay within the medieval holding of Manorbier, a mesne lordship or honorial barony of the earldom of Pembroke. At the close of the medieval period the lordship of Manorbier descended to the crown.

The primary function of the Palace was doubtless residential, but an administrative/judicial role, within a manorial context, has been proposed. As an administrative centre, the Palace probably went out of use during the 17th century as the jurisdictional power of the manorial court waned. It was re-used as a domestic habitation from at least the 19th century and probably earlier. The palace was not entirely abandoned until the mid-20th century.

- 2.2.2 Table 2 and Figure 2 give details of the known archaeological and historical sites recorded on the regional HER and RCAHMW Coflein database that lie within 300m of the development area.

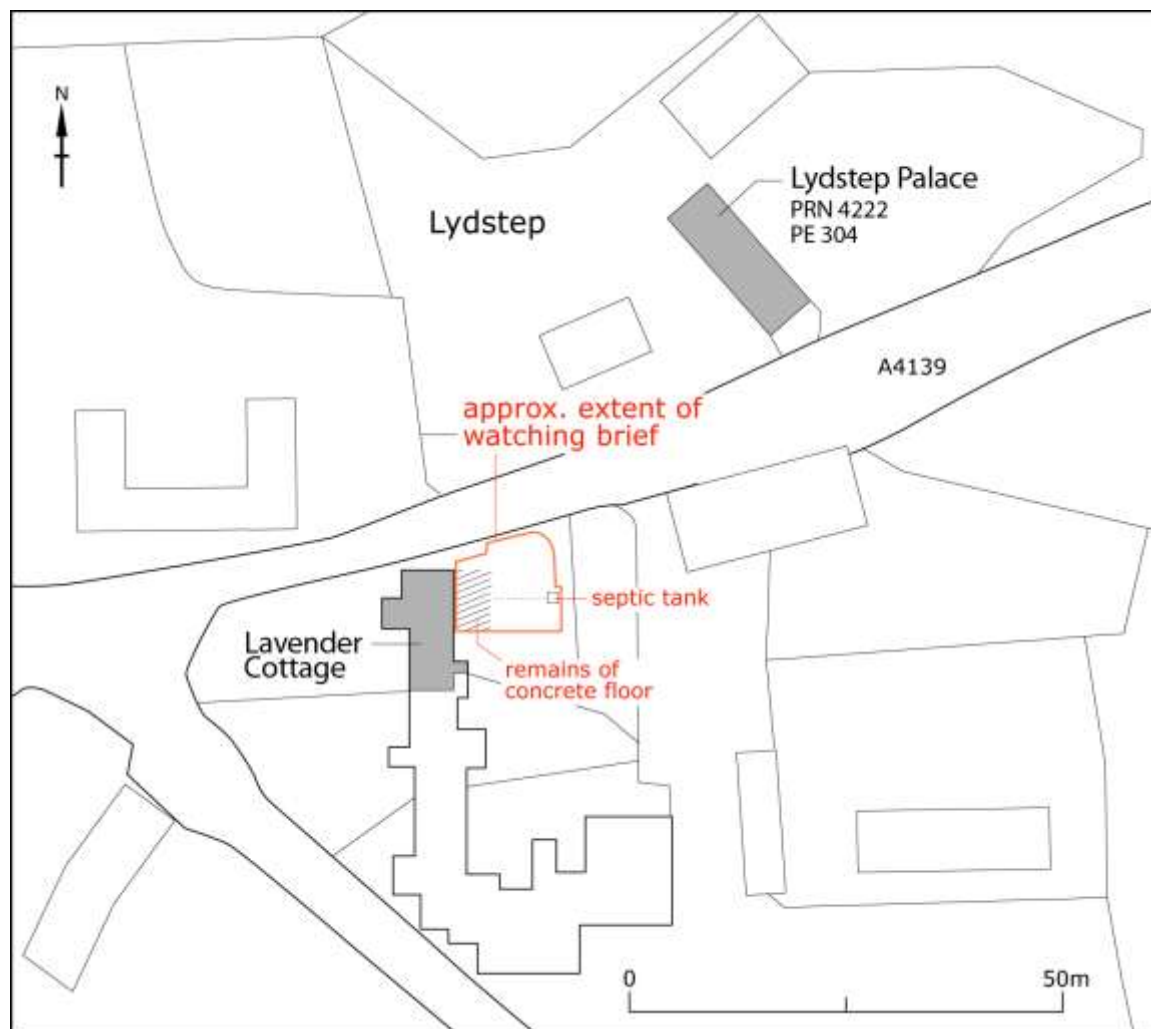


Figure 3: Plan of area of watching brief in relation to Lydstep Palace

3. WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 The development site was visited once on January 21st 2015 at the request of the client.
- 3.1.2 Excavation work was carried out by a 360° mini excavator with a toothed bucket. All archaeological deposits revealed during the ground works were examined and recorded to an appropriate level.
- 3.1.3 The excavation conformed to best current professional practice and was carried out in accordance with the Recording Manual⁴ used by DAT Archaeological Services.

3.2 Post-Fieldwork Reporting and Archiving

- 3.2.1 All data recovered during the fieldwork will be 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.
- 3.2.2 The results of the fieldwork have been assessed in local, regional and wider contexts.

⁴ DAT Archaeological Services have adopted the Recording Manual developed by English Heritage Centre for Archaeology. A copy will be available on-site for inspection if required.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- 4.1 The watching brief area was compromised by the remains of a concrete conservatory floor on its western edge, protruding 4m into the area and a hitherto unknown concrete septic tank with associated pipe work at the eastern end of the plot. These two impediments reduced the area to be monitored considerably (Figure 3; Photos 1 and 3).
- 4.2 The development area was topsoil stripped with a toothed, mini digger which revealed a soil profile consisting of approximately 0.3m of friable, dark grey-brown, silty-clay with occasional small stone and coal fragments, beneath which stood a layer, 0.2m thick, of compact, light grey-brown, silty clay containing small coal fragments. This overlay undisturbed natural grey-brown clays with occasional limestone pieces (Photo 2).
- 4.3 No features, finds, or deposits of archaeological significance were observed during the watching brief.

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The archaeological watching brief has demonstrated that the ground works associated with the extension to the rear of Lavender Cottage, Lydstep has not impacted upon any archaeologically significant deposits or features.
- 5.2 Although no significant archaeological features or remains were observed during the watching brief it is still possible that significant archaeological remains could be present in the surrounding area.

6. PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1: View northeast – remains of concrete floor adjacent to the cottage.
Lydstep Palace visible in top right corner. 1m scale



Photo 2: View east – typical soil profile. 0.5m scale



Photo 3: View north – site during ground reduction (note septic tank manhole).
1m scale



Photo 4: View northeast – east-west section. Lystep Palace to the right of house.
Note waste pipe leading to septic tank in foreground.

7. SOURCES

Published

Brown, D, 2007 *Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*, Institute of Field Archaeologists.

Unpublished

Ludlow, N D, 1996 *Lydstep Palace: Archaeological Recording and Structural Analysis*, Cambria (DAT) Archaeology Report prepared for Pembrokeshire County Council

Database

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record, housed with Dyfed Archaeological Trust in The Shire Hall, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire, SA19 6AF

RCAHMW Coflein Database <http://www.coflein.gov.uk/>

Cartographic

Ordnance Survey 1907 1:2500 2st edition Pembrokeshire

Ordnance Survey 1:2500 Explorer map

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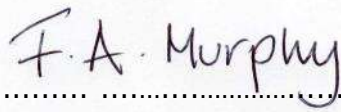
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Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi ei gael yn gywir a derbyn sêl bendith
This report has been checked and approved by

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ar ran Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf.
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Swydd / Position: Project Manager DAT Archaeological Services



Llofnod / Signature Dyddiad / Date 17/02/2015

Yn unol â'n nôd i roddi gwasanaeth o ansawdd uchel, croesawn unrhyw sylwadau sydd
gennych ar gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn

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have on the content or presentation of this report

