

HOUSE PLOT FOUNDATIONS AT BANK FARM, LLAWHADEN, PEMBROKESHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF 2015 (NGR SN07010 17422)



DAT
Archaeological Services

Prepared by DAT Archaeological Services
For: Mr Tim Colquhoun



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Gan / By

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SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by DAT at the request of Tim Colquhoun Architects on behalf of their client, Mr Steve Rogers and Ms Sharon Davies in fulfilment of a condition placed upon planning permission by the Pembrokeshire County Council Planning Authority, following advice from their archaeological advisors, for the building of a new dwelling on land at Bank Farm Llawhaden, Pembrokeshire (Planning Application No 10/0575/PA), centered on NGR SN 07010 17422).

The condition was placed because the location of the development suggested there was an increased potential for the site to contain buried archaeological remains. The site lies on the western edge of the historic core of the village in a location formally occupied by a modern agricultural building adjacent to existing sheds and stores associated with Bank Farm. The plot also lies close to the standing remains of Llawhaden House and its associated outbuildings, several of which are Grade II listed. Llawhaden Castle is some 250m to the east. The location of the plot between these two groups of buildings was considered to suggest there was increased potential for archaeological remains associated with the medieval and post-medieval village to survive within the site area. These could be in the form of building remains or earth cut features such as postholes or pits.

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 September 29th 2015.

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 *Mr Tom Colquhoun on behalf of their client, Mr and Mrs Davies in fulfilment of a condition placed upon planning permission by the Pembrokeshire County Council Planning Authority, following advice from their archaeological advisors, for the building of a new dwelling on bordering Bank Farm and Llawhaden House (Planning Application No 10/0575/PA), centered on NGR SN 07010 17422 (Figure 1).*

1.1.2 Due to the proximity of the development plot to the core of Llawhaden village, the archaeological advisors¹ to the Pembrokeshire County Council Planning Authority considered there was a possibility that buried archaeological remains with the potential to shed light upon the early origins of the settlement, could be present within the footprint of the new dwelling. Therefore, an archaeological watching brief was placed as a condition of consent for the planning application.

1.1.3 The condition placed on the planning application stated:

The development shall ensure that a suitably qualified archaeologist is present during the undertaking of any ground works in the development area, so that an archaeological watching brief can be conducted. The archaeological watching brief will be undertaken to the standards laid down by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (now called the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists). The Local Planning Authority shall be informed in writing, at least two weeks prior to the commencement of the development, the name of the said archaeologist.

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 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.

1.3 Report Outline

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

1.4 Abbreviations

¹ Dyfed Archaeological Trust Planning Services – Heritage Management.

- 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

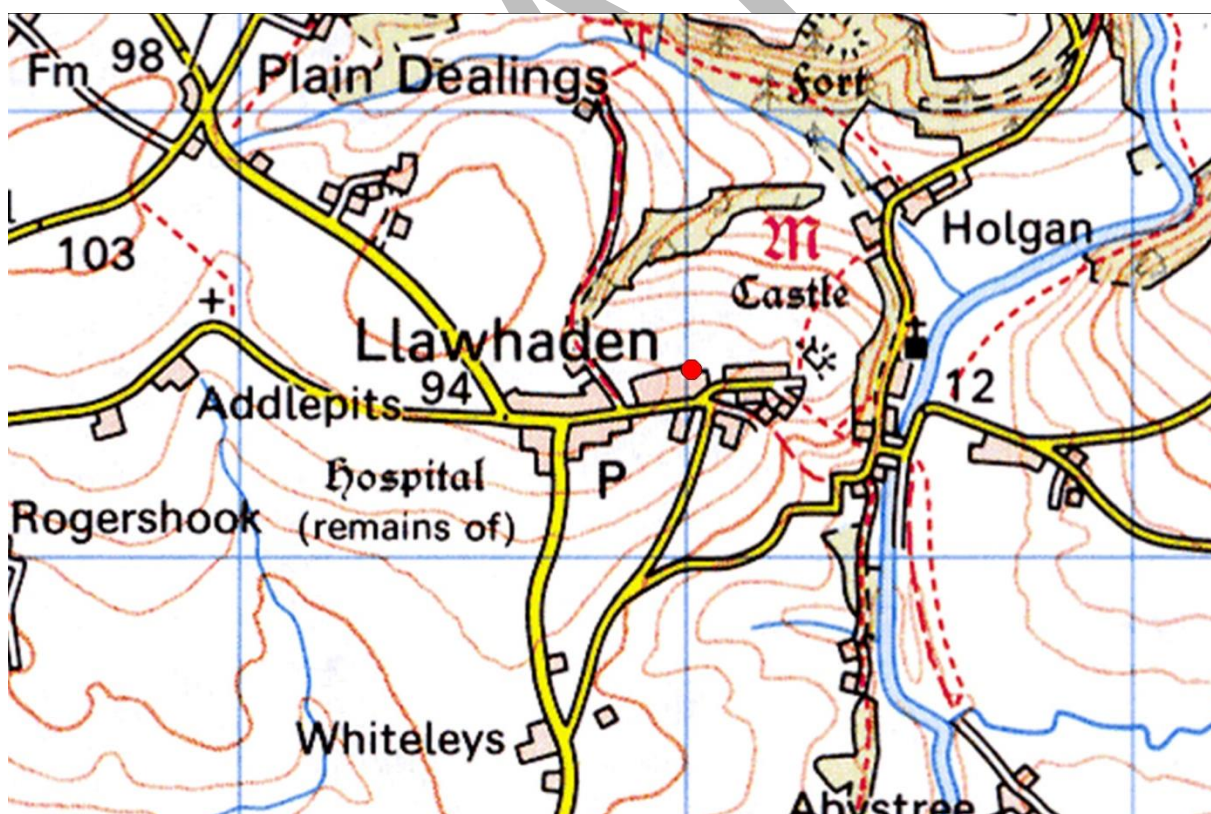
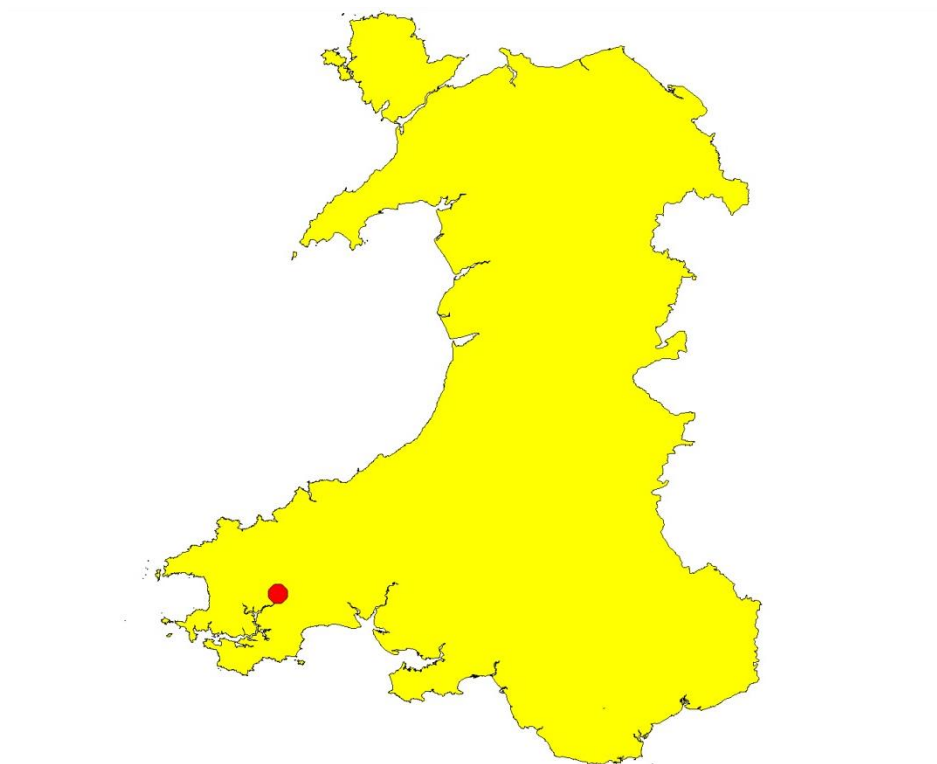


Figure 1: Site location based on Ordnance Survey.

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 from the Llawhaden Parish tithe map of 1843, showing the approximate location of the development plot

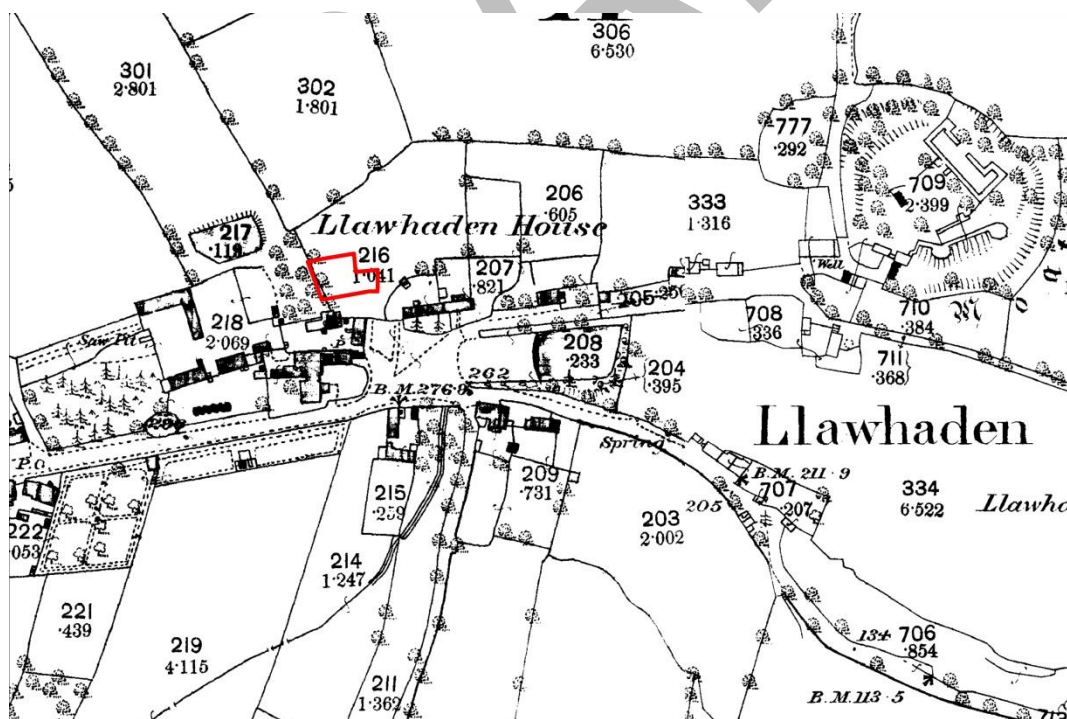


Figure 3: Extract from the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1865, showing the location of the development plot

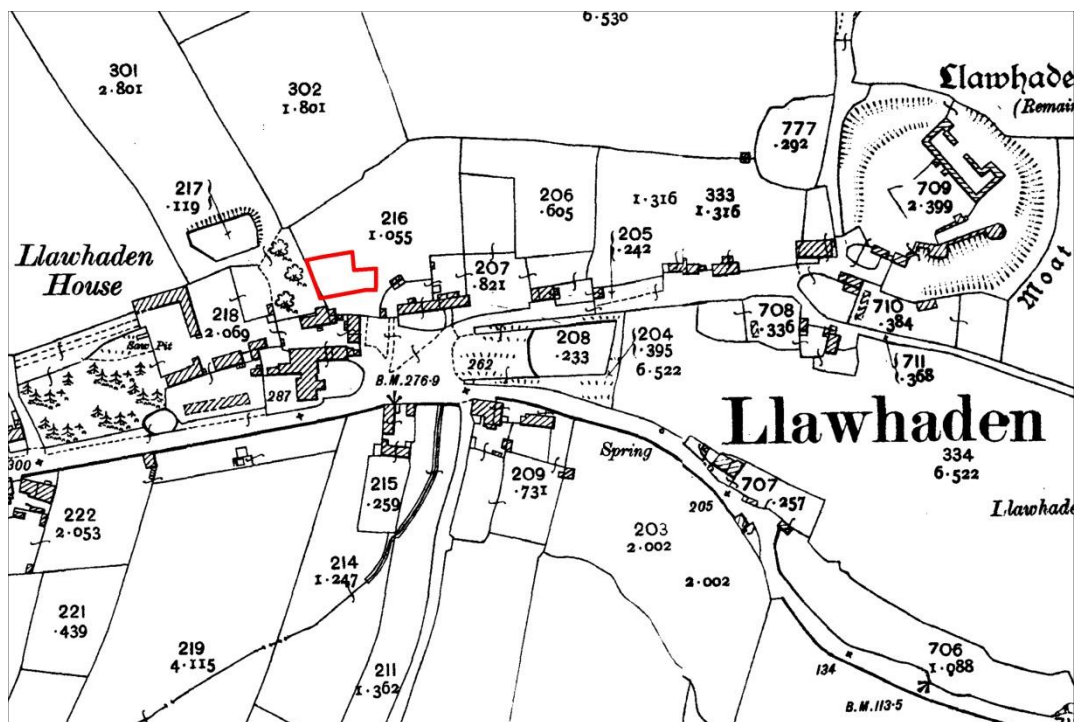


Figure 4: Extract of the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey 1908 1:2500 map, showing the location of the development plot

2. THE SITE

2.1 Location

- 2.1.1 Bank farm is situated at NGR SN07010 17422, on the northern periphery of the historic village core of Llawhaden and approximately 90m east of the church.
- 2.1.2 Available historic mapping of the settlement, suggests that other than the gradual expansion of buildings associated with Bank Farm and Llawhaden House, there has been little change to the layout of the settlement since at least 1843. There is no cartographic evidence to suggest that there has been settlement within the location of the development site.
- 2.1.3 The new dwelling will occupy an area of grass lawn and concrete hard standing and formerly partly occupied by a modern breezeblock agricultural building.
- 2.1.4 The underlying geology consists of sedimentary sandstones and mudstones of the Ordovician period.

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 2.2.1 Table 2 presents the known archaeological and historical sites recorded on the regional HER within 250m of the development area. RCAHMS data was also searched, but no additional sites of archaeological significance were identified.
- 2.2.2 None of the recorded sites in the area surrounding Bank Farm directly suggested that features of archaeological significance were likely to be present within the development plot. However the location of the plot in relation to the historic core of Llawhaden and the castle, suggested there was an increased potential for previously unknown features to be present.
- 2.2.3 The Listed Building description for Llawhaden House (Ref 6066AB) provides the following detail of its history:

Llawhaden House is a gentleman's house with attached farmstead, associated with the Skyrme family, present locally since the C16. They were parliamentarians in the Civil War, and Oliver Cromwell is said to have slept at Llawhaden House on the night before the battle of Colby Moor. In 1670 Thomas Skyrme of Llawhaden was assessed for two hearths. The house is probably of the C17, in origin, though with significant C18 external detailing, and a staircase of early/mid C18 appearance. William Skyrme was present in 1811, when Fenton referred to the house as a mansion. In the early C19 the house came into the ownership of George Roch by marriage with the heiress Charlotte Skyrme. In 1839 George Roch was recorded as owner, but James James, farmer, was in occupation as tenant; from this period the house remained in farming tenant occupation.

- 2.2.4 The first castle in Llawhaden was built in 1115 by Bishop Bernard as part of the newly established planned settlement. Only the bank and ditch of this castle survive. The existing Llawhaden Castle was mostly built between 1362 and 1389 by Bishop Adam de Houghton of St David's.

PRN	Site name	Summary Description	Period	National Grid reference
6660	Llawhaden House	Mansion of 17th century origin. Substantially destroyed by fire in 2000. Grade II Listed Building Ref No:6066	Post-Medieval	SN0699317380
59591	Gatepiers and gates at Llawhaden House	Gatepiers and gates at Llawhaden House Listed Building Ref No: 18791	Post-Medieval	SN0701717389
59592	Stables and loft at Llawhaden House	Stables and Loft at Llawhaden House Grade II Listed Building Ref No: 18792	Post-Medieval	SN0701517397
59593	Barn at Llawhaden House	Barn & loft at Llawhaden House Grade II Listed Building Ref No: 18793	Post-Medieval	SN0695517388
59594	Milking shed at Llawhaden House	Milking shed at Llawhaden House Grade II Listed Building Ref No: 18794	Post-Medieval	SN0693517378
59595	Cowhouse range at Llawhaden House	Cowhouse range at Llawhaden House Grade II Listed Building Ref No: 18795	Post-Medieval	SN0693217415
60065	Dovecote at Llawhaden House	Dovecote at Llawhaden House Grade II Listed Building Ref No: 6067	Post-Medieval	SN0697717403
60066	Granary and waggon house at Llawhaden House	Granary and Waggon Shed at Llawhaden House Grade II Listed Building Ref No: 6068	Post-Medieval	SN0699717401
60067	Wall with tower and adjacent pavement at Llawhaden House	Wall & Tower and Pavement Grade II Listed Building Ref No: 6069	Post-Medieval	SN0691717339
14086	Llawhaden Common	Common Land	Post-Medieval, Medieval	SN072174

Table 2: The archaeological and historical sites recorded on the Dyfed HER within 300m of the proposed development area as shown in Figure 1.

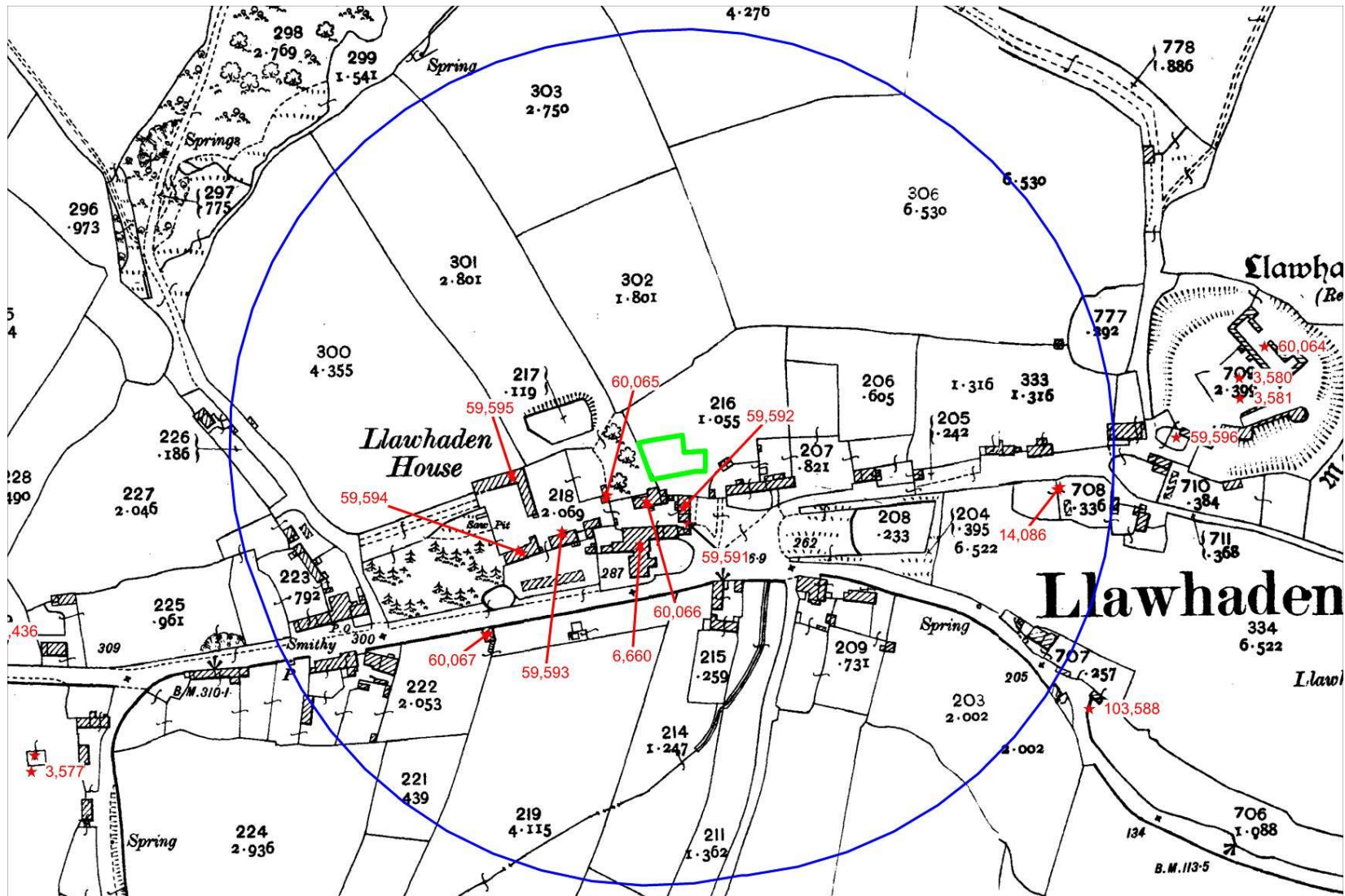


Figure 5: Plan of the Ordnance Survey 1907 2nd edition 1:2500 2nd map showing the archaeological and historical sites recorded on the Dyfed HER within 300m of the proposed development area (outlined in green).

3. WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 The development site was visited once on 29thth September.
- 3.1.2 Topsoil stripping was carried out by a tracked mini-digger with a toothed 0.5m wide 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. RESULTS

- 4.1 Turf had been stripped from the site and the locations of trenches for foundations marked out with spray paint beforehand.
- 4.2 The c.0.5m wide wall foundation trenches were excavated using a minidigger fitted with a toothed 0.5m wide bucket to a depth of 0.6m.
- 4.3 The attending archaeologist observed sufficient of the machine excavated foundation trenches to ascertain that there were no features or deposits of archaeological significance within the development. Figure 6 shows the approximate plot location with foundations trenches in red.
- 4.4 It was not considered justifiable to watch the machine excavation of the entire development footprint.
- 4.5 The soil profile exposed in the sides of the foundation trench cuts showed that the top 0.20m consisted of a very stoney deposit of large, medium and small angular stones in a mid grey coarse sandy silt matrix.
- 4.6 beneath the stoney layer was a natural deposited layer of stiff mid yellow silty clay with pockets of grit and silt inclusions and moderate medium sized rocks. This layer was excavated to a depth of 0.6m below the present ground surface.
- 4.7 Although no clear edges were visible, an area of modern disturbance on the south side of the plot was indicated by the presence of several lumps of concrete below the level of the grey stoney deposit.

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.

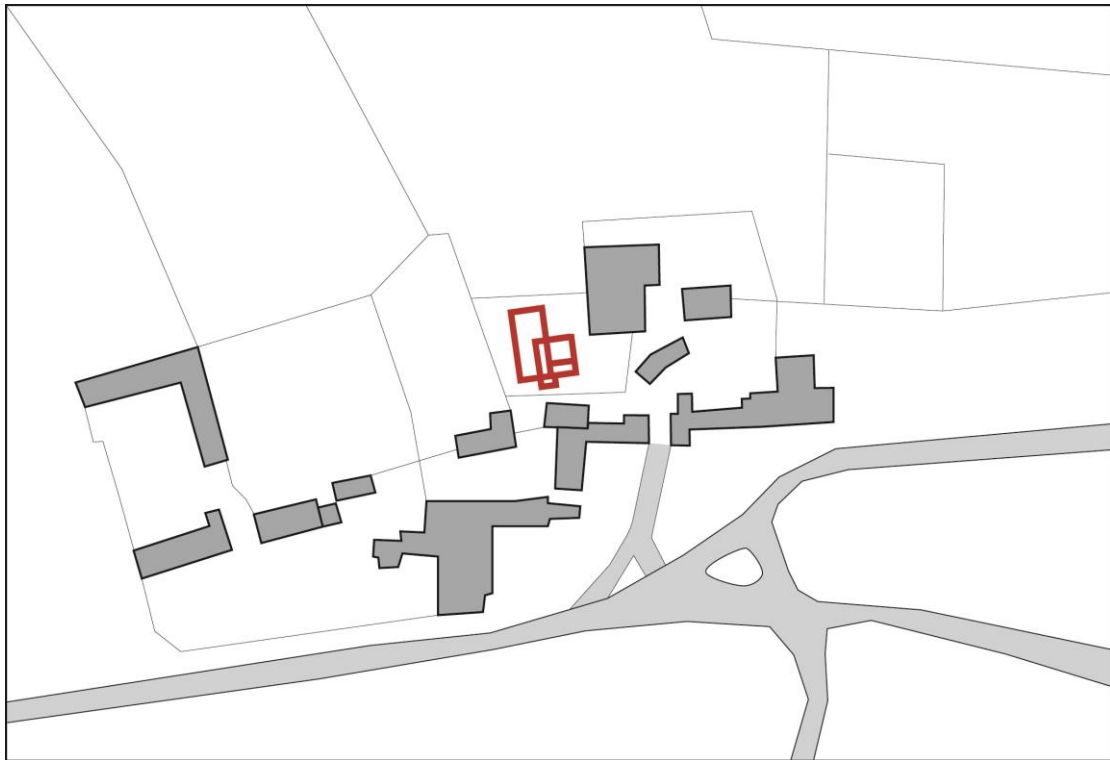


Figure 6: Plot location

5. DISCUSSION and CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The archaeological watching brief has demonstrated that the ground works associated with the construction the new dwelling have not impacted upon any archaeologically significant deposits or features.
- 5.4 The land use history of the plot that can be assumed from the cartographic evidence suggests that original topsoil may have been removed, along with the top of the natural subsoil to create a level construction surface for a modern agricultural building. The grey stoney layer may be a redeposited make-up layer.
- 5.5 Although no significant archaeological features or remains were observed during the watching brief this does not discount the possibility that significant archaeological remains could be present in the surrounding area.

6. PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1: Stripped area looking west



Photo 2: A representative example of the deposits encountered

7. SOURCES Published

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

Database

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

Cartographic

Llawhaden Parish tithe map of 1843

Ordnance Survey 1865 1:2500 1st edition Pembrokeshire

Ordnance Survey 1908 1:2500 2st edition Pembrokeshire

Ordnance Survey 1: 5000 Explorer map

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James Meek

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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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