

3 CLOS LLWYN TY GWYN, WHITLAND, CARMARTHENSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



Prepared by DAT Archaeological Services
For: Bro Myrddin Housing Association



DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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February 2016

3 CLOS LLWYN TY GWYN, WHITLAND, CARMARTHENSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Gan / By

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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SUMMARY

A planning application was submitted to Carmarthenshire County Council, for the erection of a single storey extension to the property 3 Clos Llwyn Ty Gwyn, Whitland, Carmarthenshire (Planning Ref: W/32244). Due to the potential for archaeological remains to be present within the development area, the archaeological advisors to the Local Planning Authority recommended that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development. Bro Myrddin Housing Association commissioned DAT Archaeological Services to undertake the watching brief.

The development site lies to the southeast of a rectangular enclosure identified through aerial photography and also by fieldwork undertaken in 2007 (PRN 11782). The enclosure comprised ditches forming a large rectangular area, with an additional rectangular area to the northeast. A ditch appeared to project off to the southeast of the enclosure, running roughly in the direction of the development site. It remains undated, but its form would suggest it is of Iron Age or possibly Romano-British date. The line of the Roman road leading west from Carmarthen (Moridunum) runs to the north of the development site.

The watching brief was undertaken on the 19th and 20th January 2016 during ground reduction works and the excavation of foundation trenches for the proposed single storey extension. The ground reduction works were carried out using a small 360° excavator fitted with a flat bladed bucket. The foundations were excavated with the same machine fitted with a toothed bucket.

The watching brief indicated that the area had been levelled with building waste and other material, presumably at the time at which the houses on Clos Llwyn Ty Gwyn were built. Natural ground, comprising grey/brown clay was reached at a depth of around 0.80m to 1.00m, corresponding with the maximum depth of the foundation trenches. No sign of a buried topsoil was visible within the trenches.

The majority of material removed from the trenches contained modern building debris, although a small area on the western side of the foundations for the extension recovered material dating from the later 19th century onwards, mixed with fragments of bricks and ceramic ducting. All of the layers excavated appeared to represent ground levelling. No significant archaeological remains were revealed within the area of the proposed extension.

Although no significant archaeological remains were revealed within the development area, there is still potential that significant archaeological deposits could be present in its vicinity.

1. INTRODUCTION

Project Proposals and Commission

- 1.1.1 DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Bro Myrddin Housing Association to provide an archaeological watching brief during groundworks during groundworks associated with the construction of a single storey extension at 3 Clos Llwyn Ty Gwyn, Whitland, Carmarthenshire (NGR SN 20900 16893).
- 1.1.2 The requirement for the watching brief was placed on the development as a condition on planning permission (W/32244) following advice from the archaeological advisor's to the planning authority (Planning Services of the Dyfed Archaeological Trust). The condition states:
- The developer shall ensure that a professionally qualified archaeologist is present during the undertaking of any ground works, so that an archaeological watching brief can be carried out. The archaeological watching brief will be undertaken to the standards laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. The Planning Authority will be informed, in writing at least two weeks prior to the commencement of the development, of the name of the said archaeologist.*
- 1.1.3 The archaeological condition has been placed upon the development as the site lies close to the southeast of a rectangular enclosure identified through aerial photography and also by fieldwork undertaken in 2007 (PRN 11782). A ditch appeared to project off to the southeast of the enclosure, running roughly in the direction of the development site. It remains undated, but its form would suggest it is of Iron Age or possibly Romano-British date. The line of the Roman road leading west from Carmarthen (Moridunum) runs to the north of the development site.
- 1.1.4 An initial site visit was undertaken on 11th January 2016 to meet with the developer and discuss the requirements of the watching brief. At this stage ground preparation works were carried out which included the removal of paving slabs from the site area and the marking out of the site.

1.2 Scope of the 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 the works, which was approved by the archaeological advisor to the planning authority prior to the commencement of the works. The project objectives were:
- Provision of a written scheme of investigation to outline the methodology by which DAT Archaeological Services will undertake the watching brief.
 - 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 groundworks.
 - To appropriately investigate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the groundworks.
 - To produce an archive and report of any results.
- 1.2.2 The overall work was summarised as: *"Archaeological attendance during ground works associated with groundworks associated with the construction of a single storey rear extension at 3 Clos Llwyn Ty Gwyn, Whitland, Carmarthenshire which are likely to expose, damage or destroy archaeological remains. Appropriate investigation and recording of any*

such remains will be undertaken if revealed. A report and archive of the results of the works will be prepared."

- 1.2.3 The archaeological works were undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* and their codes of conduct (CIfA 2014).

1.3 Report Outline

- 1.3.1 This report describes the location of the development works along with its archaeological background, and 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 Record (HER) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR). Sites recorded on the National Monument Record (NMR) held by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) are identified by their National Primary Record Number (NPRN). Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM). Altitude is expressed to Ordnance Datum (OD). References to cartographic and documentary evidence and published sources will be given in brackets throughout the text, with full details listed in the sources section at the rear of the report.

1.5 Illustrations

- 1.5.1 Photographic images are to be found within the report. Printed map extracts are not necessarily reproduced to their original scale.

1.6 Timeline

- 1.6.1 The following timeline 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 ¹ – | 1536 – 1750 | |
| Industrial Period – | 1750 – 1899 | |
| Modern – | 20 th century onwards | |

Table 1: Archaeological and historical timeline for Wales

¹ 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

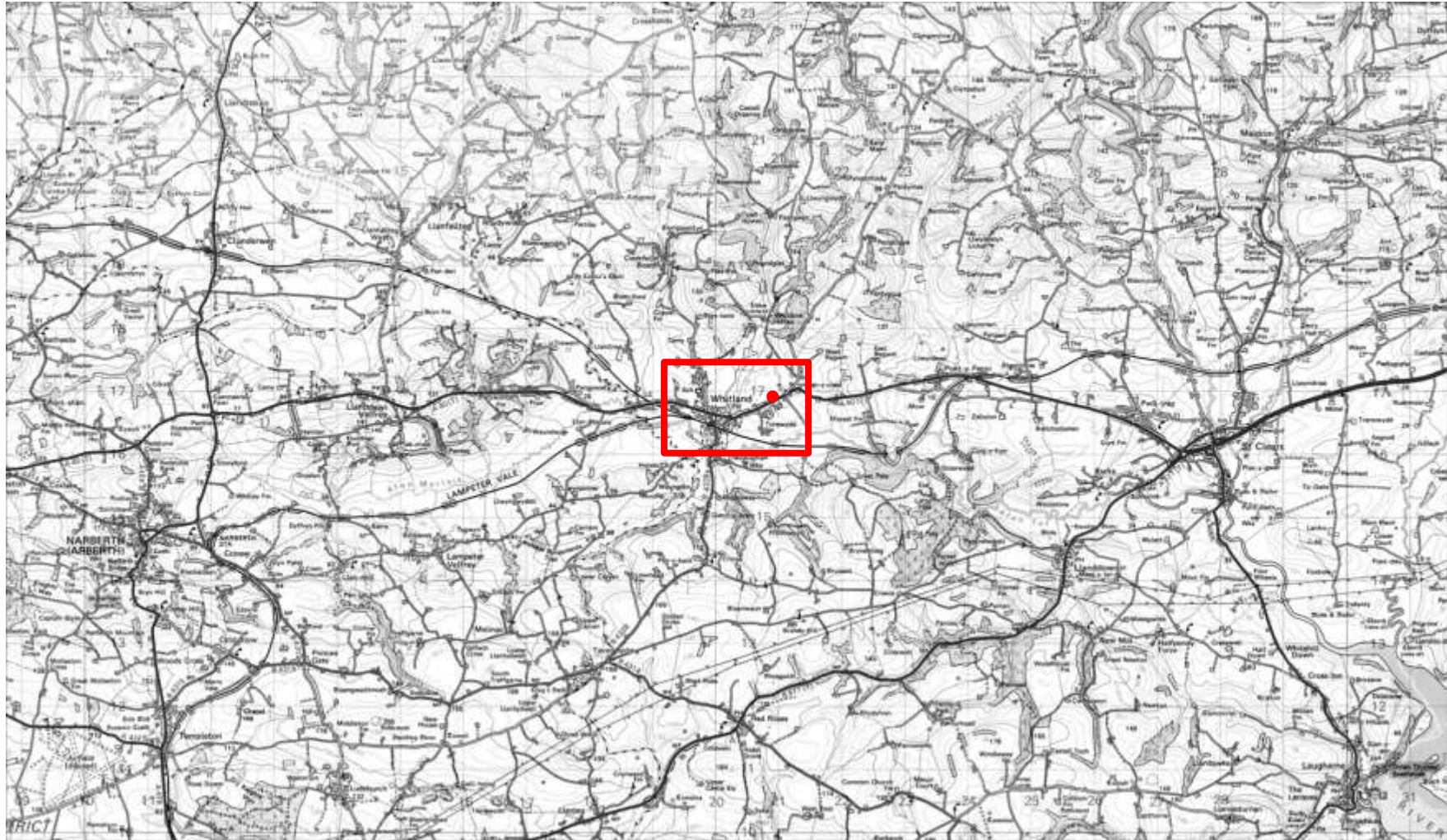


Figure 1: Location map showing Whitland within the red boundary and the site area as a red dot

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Figure 2: Location of watching brief at 3 Clos Llwyn Ty Gwyn, Whitland

2. THE SITE

2.1 Location and Topography

- 2.1.1 Clos Llwyn Ty Gwyn is located on the northern side of Spring Gardens on the eastern side of Whitland, Carmarthenshire. Clos Llwyn Ty Gwyn comprises a series of houses mostly built around 2003, with number 3 being a semi-detached property on the western side of the road, close to the junction with Spring Gardens (the development site centred on NGR SN 22900 16893; Figures 1 and 2).
- 2.1.2 The small site area was relatively level, lying on the northwestern side of the property at approximately 45m aOD. The general topography of the area drops to the southwest and rises to the northeast on the far side of Clos Llwyn Ty Gwyn, indicating the area had been subject to some levelling when the housing development was built.
- 2.1.3 The bedrock of the area is Tetrgraptus Beds sedimentary mudstones (based on information from the British Geological Survey <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> accessed on 27/01/2016). The superficial geology is not recorded, but from the site work would appear to comprise grey/brown clays with some gravel inclusions.

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 2.2.1 No archaeological sites are known to exist directly within the proposed development area; however a search of the Regional Historic Environment Record database revealed that a total of seven sites of archaeological and historic interest are located within a 500m radius centred on the development area. These are listed in Table 2 below (Figure 3).
- 2.2.2 The sites recorded include the cropmark enclosure (PRN 11782) which lies to the northwest of the site area (the main reason for the requirement of a watching brief; Figure 3). This was partially excavated in 2007 confirming the presence of the ditches and a possible smaller enclosure on its northern side (Cambria Archaeology 2007). No dating evidence was recovered from the ditches, but due to its shape it is thought most likely to date from the Iron Age or even the Roman period. The evaluation indicated that in places the ditches survived to a depth of around 1m, but in others they had been significantly truncated by ploughing.
- 2.2.3 Three identified segments of the Roman road running west from Carmarthen to Wiston in Pembrokeshire are located within the 500m of the development site. These include a stretch running through Dolecoed around 450m to the east-northeast (PRN 28133); through the field to the north of Clos Llwyn Ty Gwyn (PRN 28132) around 200m from the site; and a further stretch at the Beeches some 490m to the northwest (PRN 28131) which leads to a very well preserved length of road just outside of the search area which is designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (CM 279).
- 2.2.4 A post-medieval brickworks is recorded on the HER around 90m to the north (PRN 22716). This lies directly to the north of the area developed at Clos Llwyn Ty Gwyn in 2003.
- 2.2.5 The other sites recorded on the HER within the study area include a small former settlement predating the expansion of Whitland along Spring Gardens lying around 120m to the east (PRN 47058); the farmstead at Pen Y Coed some 500m to the east-northeast (PRN 48557); and Ty

Newydd, a former gentrified house lying around 500m to the south (PRN 24358).

- 2.2.6 Overall the known archaeology of the search area would indicate that there was potential for remains associated with the adjacent enclosure to be present within the development site. The date of this enclosure has not been confirmed, and has previously been considered most likely to be Iron Age, although the rectangular shape would be more akin to a Roman form. The potential for significant Roman activity in Whitland has been recently highlighted with the discovery of the Roman fort at Wiston in Pembrokeshire, with Whitland lying mid-way between Carmarthen and Wiston, and a likely location for a Roman military site. The potential for remains associated with the nearby brickworks was also identified.

| PRN | Site name | Period | Description | Grid reference |
|-------|----------------------|---------------------|--|----------------|
| 11782 | Spring Gardens | Iron Age? Roman? | A rectangular defended enclosure identified from aerial photographs, located on a very gentle north facing hillslope at 40m above sea level. The enclosure measures approximately 55m N-S by 35m E-W. A smaller, squarer annex enclosure is attached to the north. | SN 2085 1690 |
| 22716 | Brickyard | Post-Medieval | Brickworks | SN 20918 16977 |
| 24358 | Ty Newydd | Post-Medieval | C16th home of John Vaughan then of the Adams later of Peterwell, Ceredigion. Used as a farmyard when demolished c.1965 | SN 2080 1640 |
| 28131 | Beeches | Roman | A segment of the Roman road west of Carmarthen (PRN 14277). Part of a cropmark plotted from aerial photographs between SN19911732 and SN20531718.DS.09.2004. | SN 2050 1718 |
| 28132 | Whitland Rugby Pitch | Roman | A segment of the Roman road west of Carmarthen (PRN 14277). Identified as a parchmark and plotted from aerial photographs between SN20741712 and SN20951707. DS.09.2004. | SN 2074 1712 |
| 28133 | Dolecoed | Roman | A segment of the Roman road west of Carmarthen (PRN 14277). Plotted from aerial photographs between SN21361697 and SN21471695. The line of the Roman road lies on a large linear terrace about 10m wide. DS.09.2004. | SN 2134 1699 |
| 47058 | Settlement | Post-Medieval | A small roadside settlement consisting of a single building within a rectangular enclosure, un-named on the Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 1:10560 map of 1907. Appears to have been abandoned during the early to mid-20th century as it is not shown on modern maps | SN 21017 16892 |
| 48557 | Penycoed | Post-Medieval | Buildings are shown at this location on the tithe map and described as homestead and field. PR July 2003 | SN 2136 1708 |

Table 2: Known archaeological and historic sites recorded within 500m of 3 Clos Llwyn Ty Gwyn, Whitland recorded on the Dyfed Historic Environment Record (Figure 3)



Figure 3: Archaeological and Historical Sites recorded on the Regional Historic Environment Record within 500m of the centre of the proposed development, showing the site area (purple block), cropmark site (green) and the line of the Roman road leading west from Carmarthen (red lines are confirmed stretches, blue lines are projected). Note that this map is pre-2003 and does not have Clos Llwyn Ty Gwyn on it.

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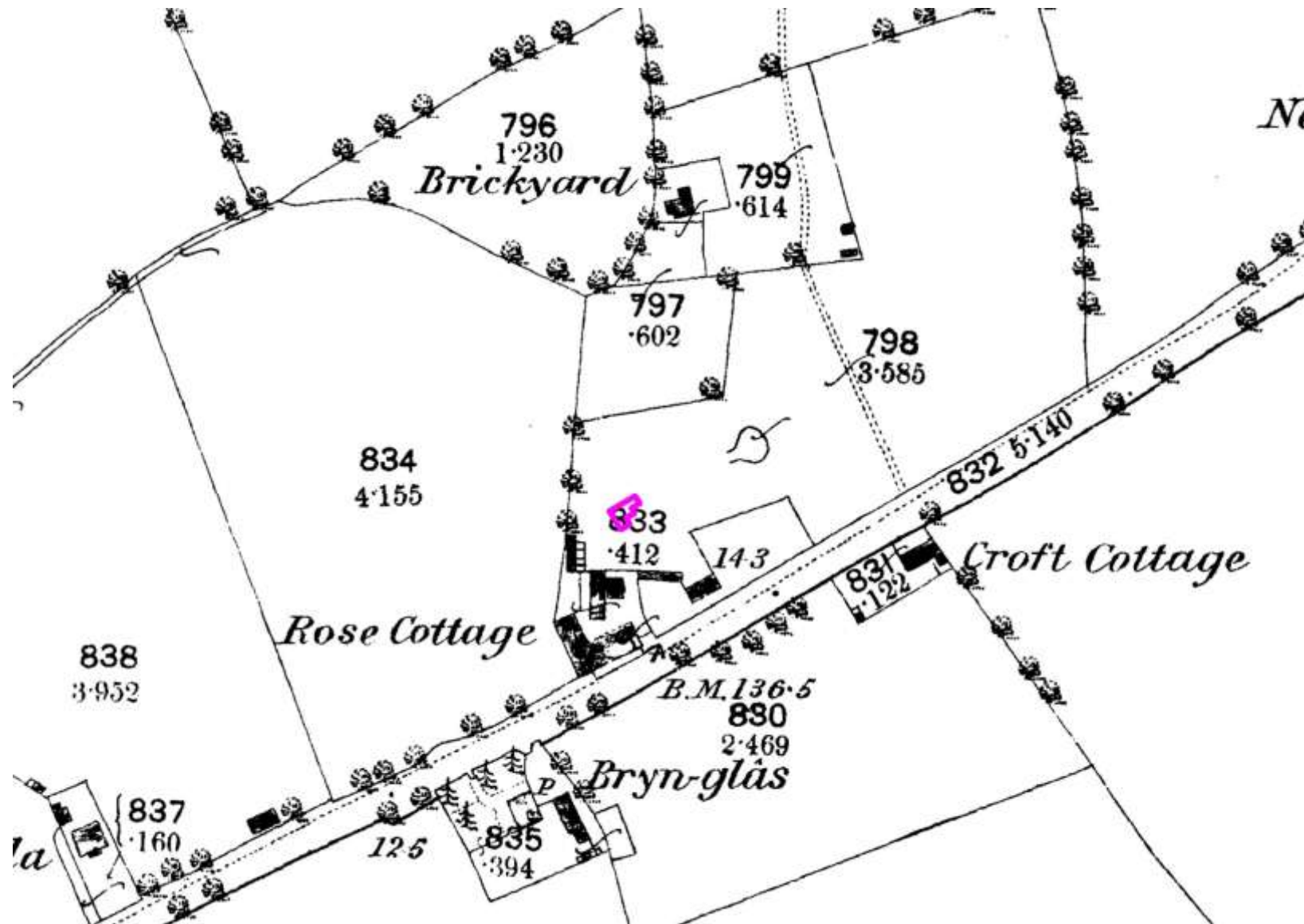


Figure 4: Extract from the Ordnance Survey first edition map of 1880s and approximate location of development area (purple)

- 2.2.7 The Llanboidy Tithe map of 1841 shows Whitland and the site area (Cynefin website, accessed 28/01/2016). No buildings are marked in the vicinity, with the site of 3 Clos Llwyn Ty Gwyn and its extension site lying within a field described as pasture, owned by The Honourable Wm Hy Yelverton and occupied by a Thomas Hughes.
- 2.2.8 The first edition Ordnance Survey map published in the 1880s shows that a number of properties had been constructed along the road line, including Rose Cottage and associated outbuildings lying directly to the south of the development site (Figure 4). It is presumed that the field in which the development area lies continued in use as agricultural land. The number of outbuildings at Rose Cottage indicates that it was probably a farm (possibly with pigsties represented by the small building with adjacent subdivided yard).
- 2.2.9 The brickyard (PRN 22716) is shown on the map to the north of the site area.
- 2.2.10 The area remains undeveloped until 2003 when the housing on Clos Llwyn Ty Gwyn was built.

3. WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork

- 3.1.1 A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks at the site which had the potential to expose, damage or destroy underlying archaeological remains.
- 3.1.2 Ground reduction work was undertaken by the site contractors Ty Croes, using a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. Foundation trenches were excavated using a toothed bucket. All groundworks with the potential to expose, damage or destroy archaeological remains were observed.
- 3.1.3 All archaeological deposits revealed during the groundworks were examined and recorded to an appropriate level.
- 3.1.4 Recording of all archaeological features or deposits conformed to best current professional practice and was carried out in accordance with the Recording Manual² used by DAT Archaeological Services.
- 3.1.5 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).

3.2 Timetabling of Fieldwork

- 3.2.1 An initial site meeting was undertaken on 11th January 2016 to determine the work programme and discuss the requirements with the site contractors. As the work that day was to involve only the removal of paving slabs and setting out, there was no need to do this under archaeological conditions.
- 3.2.2 Due to a period of very poor weather no work was undertaken at the site until 19th January. On this day the ground reduction works were carried out. Foundation trenches were excavated on 20th January. The archaeological watching brief was undertaken during these two days.

3.3 Post-Fieldwork Reporting and Archiving

- 3.3.1 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 2011), and the procedures recommended by the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth.
- 3.3.2 The results of the fieldwork have been 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.
- 3.3.3 A report fully representative of the results of the fieldwork has been prepared.

² 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 (Figure 5)

- 4.1 An initial site visit was made on 11th January 2016 to discuss the site and requirements with the site contractors. The site at that time was partially covered with paving slabs and hard standing (Photo 1). Wooden edged garden paths and raised beds lay further to the west (Photo 2).



Photo 1: View northeast across the proposed area of extension prior to work commencing, showing stone area



Photo 2: Western side of area for proposed extension showing raised beds and garden edging, prior to work commencing

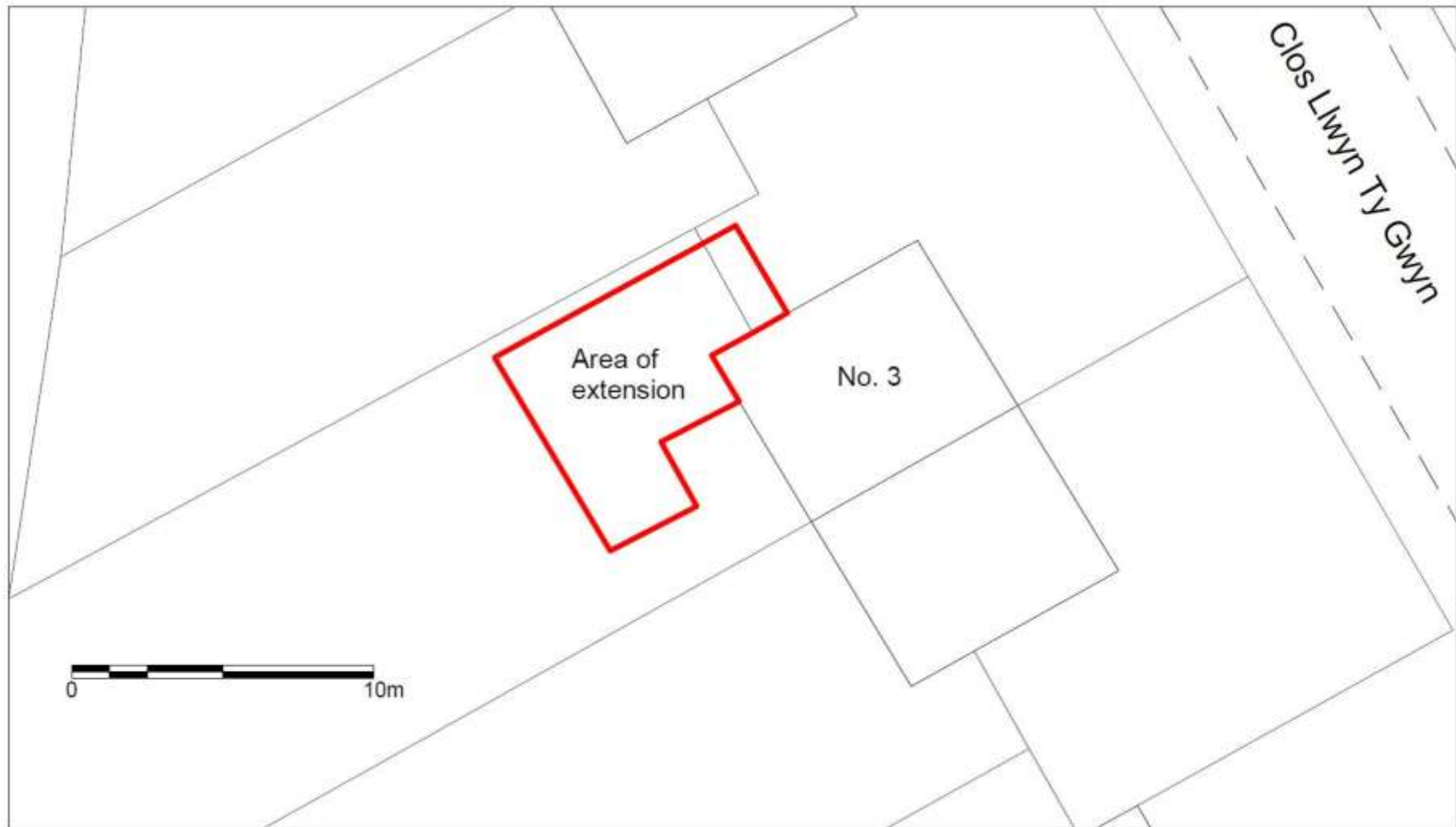


Figure 5: Detailed plan showing area of watching brief

- 4.2 A second visit was made to the site on 19th January to observe ground levelling across the area of the extension and associated patio area. The ground was levelled using a ditching bucket (Photo 3) which left a good clean surface in which to be able to observe the presence or absence of archaeological features. Between 0.20 and 0.30m depth of soil was removed in total (including former paving slab depth).



Photo 3: View northeast across development area towards 3 Clos Llwyn Ty Gwyn during ground reduction



Photo 4: View northwest across southwestern end of stripped area showing mixed nature of exposed soil

- 4.3 The exposed surface following machine stripping comprised almost entirely a mixed brown silty clay soil with modern debris and patches of grey/brown clay (Photos 3, 4 & 5). Directly outside the back door of 3 Clos Llwyn Ty Gwyn was a rectangular area of stone which was the sub-base material from the original patio of the house, which was smaller than that removed on 11th January (Photo 2).



Photo 5: View northeast across stripped site towards 3 Clos Llwyn Ty Gwyn showing the mixed nature of exposed soil and rectangular area of stone sub-base for former patio

- 4.4 An area of stone associated with a former shed or similar was present on the northern side of the house (Photo 2). This was removed revealing similar mixed soils.
- 4.5 On the 20th January the foundation trenches were marked out and machine excavated using a 0.60m wide toothed bucket. Trenches were mostly excavated to a depth of around 0.80m, but an area of 1m depth was excavated adjacent to 3 Clos Llwyn Ty Gwyn.
- 4.6 The deeper foundations adjacent to 3 Clos Llwyn Ty Gwyn exposed the full depth of the footings for the existing building (Photo 6).
- 4.7 A sewer manhole was present on the southern side of the extension, with the foundation trench exposing the gravel filled pipe trench (Photo 7).



Photo 6: Foundation trench adjacent to 3 Clos Llwyn Ty Gwyn, showing existing foundations of house and adjacent rain water drainage



Photo 7: View northwest across extension area showing sewer manhole close to property with pipe trench and gravel backfill along edge of foundation trench



Photo 8: View southwest along northwestern foundation trench, showing clay base to the trench with mixed material above and modern drain and other services



Photo 9: general view of excavation of foundations showing full depth of trench exposing clean grey/brown clays along base and mixed material above

- 4.8 Excluding other modern services located to the north of the property (between Nos 3 and 5 Clos Llwyn Ty Gwyn; Photo 8) the foundation trenches were excavated through a depth of around 0.70 – 0.80m of mixed material onto the natural undisturbed grey/brown clay. The mixed material contained building rubble and waste material presumably

associated with the construction of the properties on Clos Llwyn Ty Gwyn, together with patches of redeposited natural clay (Photos 6, 7, 8 & 9).

- 4.9 In the northwestern corner of the foundations for the extension an area containing more stone rubble, fragments of brick and a few sherds of later 19th century to 20th century glazed pottery was noted. A number of ceramic pipe ducts were also recorded within this material, which certainly pre-dated the construction of Clos Llwyn Ty Gwyn (possibly of early to mid-20th century).
- 4.10 The bases of the trenches contained no visible archaeological remains. No material was noted at the site which pre-dated the later 19th century. No indications of a continuation of the enclosure recorded to the northwest (PRN 11782) were found within the development area.

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 A watching brief was carried out during groundworks associated with the construction of a single storey extension at 3 Clos Llwyn Ty Gwyn, Whitland, Carmarthenshire undertaken by Bro Myddrin Housing Association. The development site lies in an area with an identified potential for archaeological remains to be present associated with an adjacent cropmark enclosure site. Thus a condition was placed on planning permission for the development requiring an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken during groundworks.
- 5.2 The groundworks for the extension initially involved ground reduction across the area to a maximum depth of 0.30m. This was undertaken using a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a flat bladed bucket leaving a clean surface in which it would be possible to identify archaeological remains if present. No such remains were identified; the exposed surface comprised a mix of soil containing modern building debris and patches of redeposited natural clay.
- 5.3 The excavation of foundation trenches was undertaken using a 0.60m wide toothed bucket. This provided a clear view of the sides of the trenches, indicating that the mixed material was present to a depth of between 0.70m and 0.80m. Below this and forming the base of the trench was clean and firm grey/brown clay, representing the natural subsoil. The bases of the trenches were disturbed by the teeth of the bucket, but no indications of archaeological remains were noted.
- 5.4 The mixed material covering the site area would have originated from the construction of housing at Clos Llwyn Ty Gwyn in 2003. The area was originally a hill slope, but is now relatively level and so it is assumed that a cut and fill exercise was undertaken to create this level surface on which the housing development was built. Being on the downslope side of the road, 3 Clos Ty Gwyn has a depth of redeposited material comprising a mix of topsoil, subsoil, building waste and natural clay, representing the fill material used to level this side of the road. The clay and soils would have been dug out from the northeastern side of the road, representing the cut. The evidence indicates that mixed material fill was laid directly upon the natural subsoil, implying the area was stripped of topsoil before development commenced (as would be expected).
- 5.5 The area of stone and brick fragments noted in the northwestern corner of the extension area forms part of the fill material noted above, but may have originated from an earlier deposit of material. The fragments of brick and the ceramic pipe ducts may have been associated with the former brick works (PRN 22716) although this cannot be confirmed.
- 5.6 The watching brief did not identify any remains associated with the cropmark enclosure located to the northwest of the site (PRN 11782). If archaeological remains were present in the site area they would likely be at the level directly below the mixed fill material. No indications of any remains were identified. It is possible that any remains that had been present were already truncated by ploughing and entirely removed during groundworks associated with the original housing development in 2003; alternatively no such remains were ever present in this area.
- 5.7 Although no further archaeological deposits were identified within the development site, it is still possible that significant archaeological remains could lie within the vicinity of the development.

6. SOURCES

Database:

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

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Chwefror 2016
February 2016

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James Meek

Swydd / Position: **Head of DAT Archaeological Services**

Llofnod / Signature  Date: 10/02/2016

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

Fran Murphy

ar ran Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf.
on behalf of Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Swydd / Position: **Project Manager DAT Archaeological Services**

Llofnod / Signature  Date: 10/02/2016

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

*As part of our desire to provide a quality service we would welcome any
comments you may have on the content or presentation of this report*



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MEWN POBL**

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