

**PROPOSED NEW GARAGE, SUN ROOM AND HIGHWAY  
ACCESS AT WEST TARR FARM, ST FLORENCE,  
PEMBROKESHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**(SN08900075)**



Prepared by DAT Archaeological Services  
For: Mr Andrew Armour



ymddiriedolaeth archaeolegol

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Gan / By

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**SUMMARY**

*DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Andrew Armour to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with a proposed new garage, sun room and highway access at West Tarr Farm, St Florence, Pembrokeshire (centred on SN08900075).*

*This watching brief monitored the groundworks associated with the proposed development at West Tarr Farm; that included the topsoil stripping for two foundation trenches and a new highway access to the farmhouse. The development area lies immediately south-west of Scheduled Ancient Monument PE423; West Tarr medieval vaulted hall house (PRN 6651). However, owing to the topography of the area, West Tarr Farmhouse is actually situated in an elevated position on a limestone outcrop above the scheduled monument. The watching brief recorded that the new highway access ascended to the house through a disused and partly backfilled quarry located to the south-east of the house. Topsoil stripping of the foundation trenches revealed the thin nature of the soils overlying the limestone bedrock. Accordingly, no archaeological features or deposits were identified during the topsoil stripping of the foundation trenches although a layer of slacked lime was revealed within a small test pit in the backfill of the quarry. No kiln structure was identified within the immediate vicinity of the groundworks although there are at least two known kilns situated around 106m north (PRN 15877) and 144m south (PRN 17994) of the test pit. It is possible that this layer of lime represents limekiln waste or even possibly in situ slacking of quicklime for the production of mortar.*

*With the exception of the backfilled quarry and associated lime layer, no archaeological features or deposits were revealed during this watching brief. The groundworks did not adversely impact upon the scheduled area of West Tarr medieval hall house; PE423.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Project Proposals and Commission**

- 1.1.1 DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Andrew Armour to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with a proposed new garage, sun room and highway access at West Tarr Farm, St Florence, Pembrokeshire (centred on SN08900075) (Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 The requirement for this scheme of archaeological mitigation had been placed upon the development proposals to mitigate against the building works by Pembrokeshire County Council Local Planning Authority following advice from Dyfed Archaeological Trust - Development Management (DAT-DM) in their capacity as advisors to the local authority.
- 1.1.3 The planning condition stated that:

*"No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the local planning authority."*

- 1.1.4 The condition had been placed upon the planning decision owing to the development's immediate proximity to a Scheduled Ancient Monument. West Tarr Farm is located adjacent to and southwest of West Tarr Vaulted Hall House (SAM PE423). West Tarr Vaulted hall house is medieval in origin and consequently it appeared possible that further archaeological material and/or evidence of medieval activity may have extended into the development area.

### **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 DAT-DM in their capacity as advisors to the local authority, prior to the commencement of the works (Appendix 1). 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 and recording during groundworks associated with the proposed developments at West Tarr Farm, St Florence, Pembrokeshire which are likely to expose 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."*

### 1.3 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.

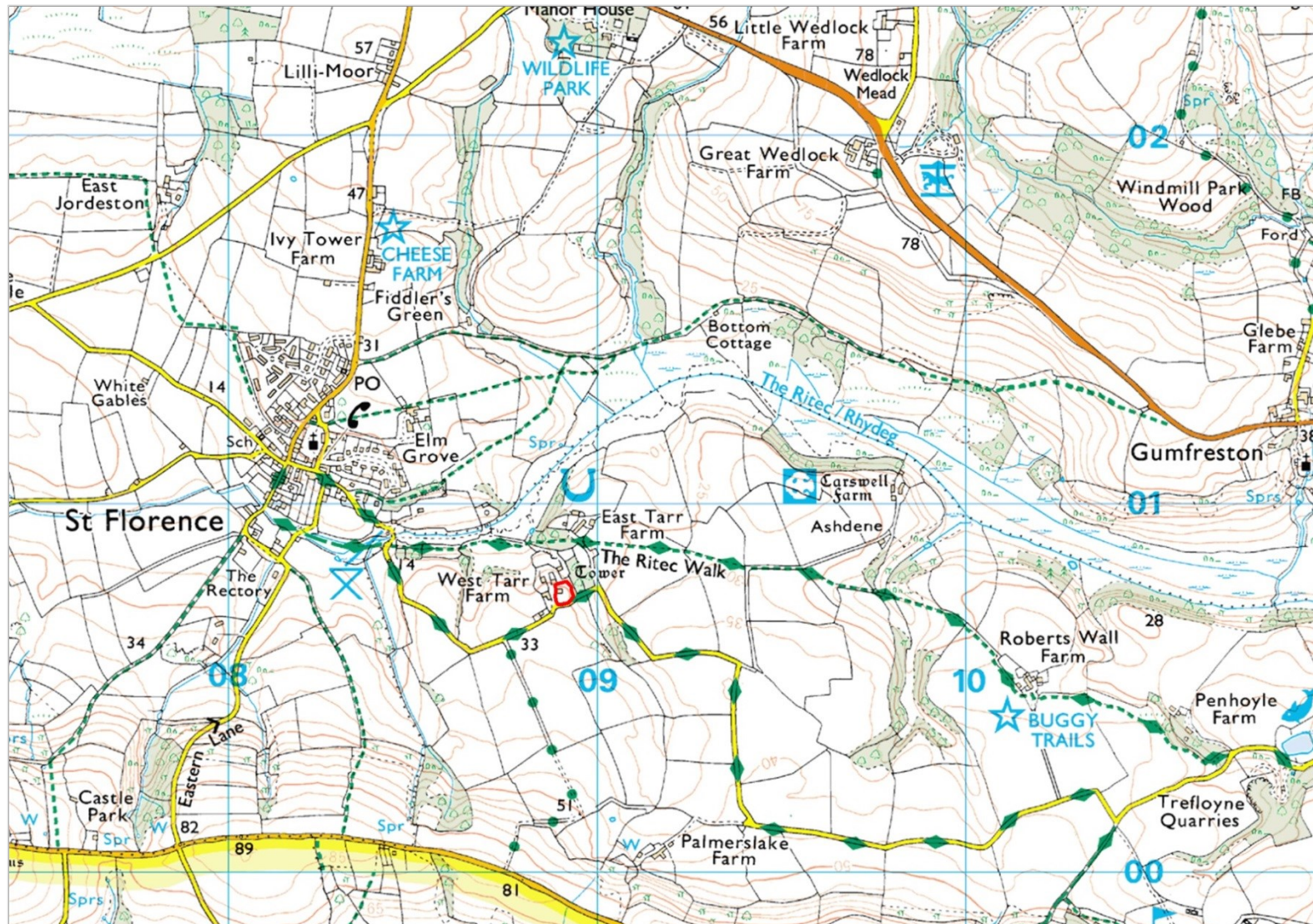
### 1.6 Timeline

- 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 <sup>1</sup> –	1536 – 1750	
Industrial Period –	1750 – 1899	
modern –	20 <sup>th</sup> century onwards	

**Table 1:** Archaeological and historical timeline for Wales

<sup>1</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



**Figure 1:** Location map showing the location and development area (outlined red) at West Tarr Farm

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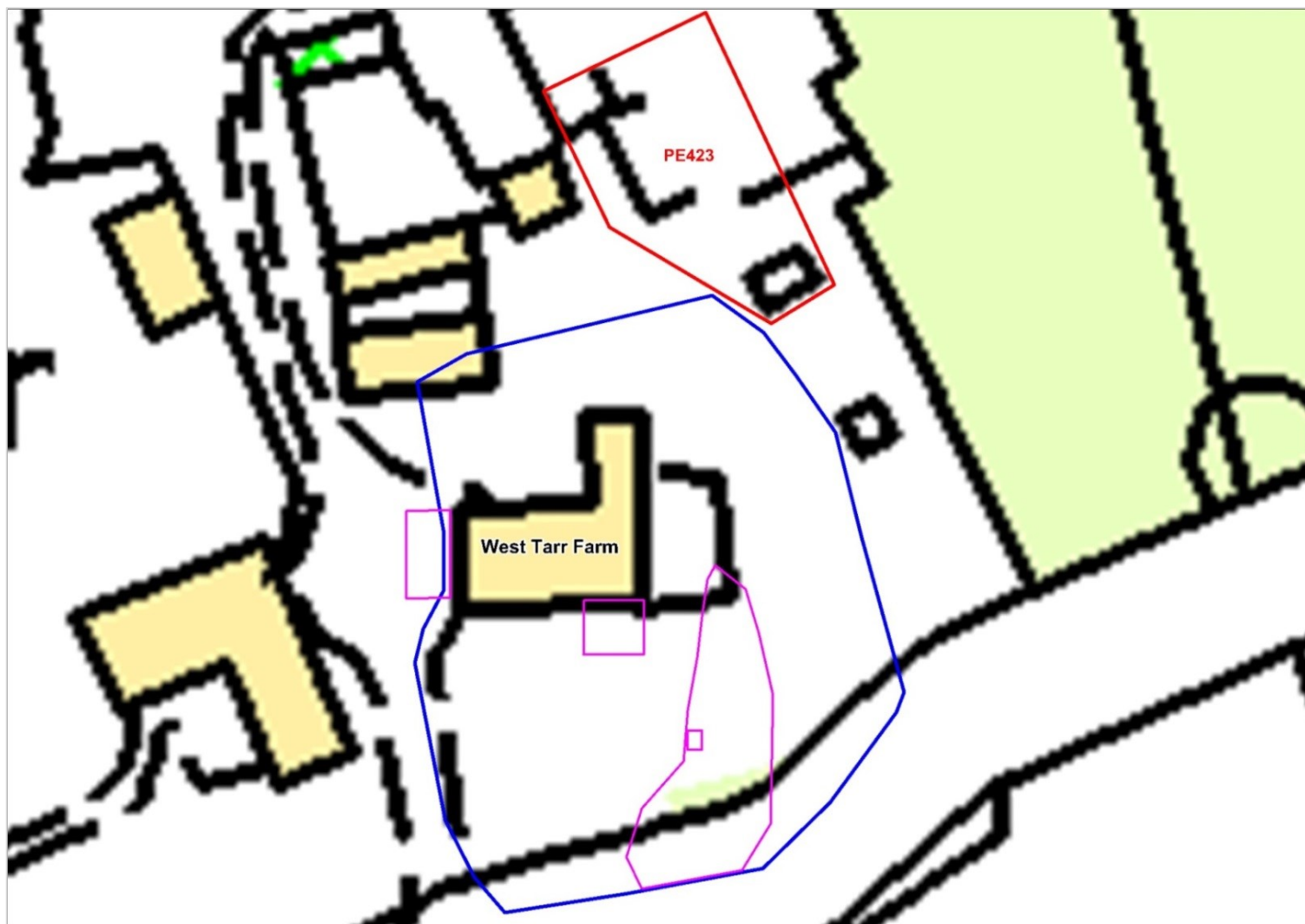
## 2 SITE LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 2.1 West Tarr Farm is located approximately 0.7km south-east of the village of St Florence, near Tenby in southern Pembrokeshire (SN08900075). West Tarr Farm is located on the western side of a steep cwm, north of which the river Ritec flows eastwards towards the sea. The development area at West Tarr Farm encompasses the farmhouse and the platform on which it is situated on an outcrop of limestone; approximately 25m above sea level a single track lane runs along the southern edge of the site, which gives access to the farmhouse (Figure 1).
- 2.2 The underlying solid geology is limestone of the Pembroke Limestone Group. This is Sedimentary bedrock which formed approximately 326 to 359 million years ago during the Carboniferous Period (Source: British Geological Survey). There is evidence for local exploitation of this resource including the presence of a small, disused quarry immediately south and south-east of the development area.
- 2.3 The proposed groundworks include the excavation of foundation trenches at the southern gable and western end of the house (Photos 1 & 2). The proposed high way access originates from the lane, permitting access from the south-east of the house (Photo 3). The scheduled area of West Tarr vaulted hall house (PE423) is located immediately north-east of the development area but owing to the topography is actually situated approximately 10m below West Tarr Farm (Figure 2).



**Photo 1:** The southern gable end of West Tarr Farmhouse prior to groundworks (DAT Photo 109392-4101)





**Figure 2:** Map showing the location of SAM PE423 in relation to the development area (outlined in blue) at West Tarr Farm, with the areas subject to groundworks outlined in pink

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**Photo 2:** The western end of West Tarr Farmhouse prior to the commencement of groundworks (DAT Photo 109392-4104)



**Photo 3:** The proposed route of the new highway access to West Tarr Farmhouse. Note the ranging poles in the foreground and background indicating the difference in ground level (DAT Photo 109392-4102)

### **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

#### **3.1 The Historic Landscape**

- 3.1.1 West Tarr Farm is located within Norchard – Tarr Historic Landscape Character Area (HLC 375) recorded on the Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales (Cadw, 1998) (Figure 3). The following extract, taken from the Carmarthenshire Historic Landscape Characterisation report (Murphy, 2000) provides a comprehensive description of this HLC area:

##### **NORCHARD - TARR**

GRID REFERENCE: SS 086991

AREA IN HECTARES: 685

##### **Historic Background**

A relatively large area of modern Pembrokeshire, lying in Manorbier and Penally parishes. During the medieval period, it lay within the Anglo-Norman manor of Manorbier (and Penally) which was a mesne lordship or honorial barony held, by the service of 5 knights, of the Lordship and Earldom of Pembroke, a heavily Anglicised region that was brought under Anglo-Norman control before 1100, re-organised along English manorial lines and never retaken by the Welsh. The barony had been held, since the very early 12th century, by the de Barris and, on their extinction in 1392, was sold to the Dukes of Exeter before reverting to the crown in 1461. From that point onwards it was leased to a succession of individuals before being settled on the Philippses of Picton Castle, with whom it remained until the 20th century. The area comprises a landscape of large, regular enclosures, quite distinct from the strip fields of Manorbier Newton character area to the west. However, the general north-south trend of the present field pattern suggests that it could have evolved from such strip fields, which may be bronze age in origin, that formerly extended into this area. By the late medieval period the area consisted of a cluster of large, substantial private farms. For instance, the important early freehold of Norchard was said to constitute half a knight's fee in itself. There is a dubious record of Norchard in the 13th century when it was apparently a possession of Thomas Luny, but is better documented as a possession of the Marichurch family from 1452 until 1673. It was assessed for seven hearths in 1670. It was later in the Bush Estate of the Meyrick family, where it was called the 'Demesne and Lordship' of Norchard. The house still contains medieval elements. Similarly, the important freeholds at Tarr and Carswell were assessed in 1326 as one tenth of a knight's fee each, held directly of the Earls of Pembroke, and each possesses a small 'pele' tower. Whitewell, too, appears to have been a private freehold from the late medieval period onwards, with medieval elements in the present farmhouse. However, there is little indication of their independent status in the three detailed surveys of the Manor of Manorbier, made in 1601, 1609 and 1618, although it may be significant that some of the holdings, and much of their detail, is not included. For instance, they do not mention Carswell or the substantial farm of Roberts Walls. In contrast, however, Bubbleton is recorded as a customary holding of the manor, Its 'fields' are mentioned – perhaps, this time, referring to open fields, possibly represented by the relict parallel, north-south boundaries around the farm. At any rate, no baronial demesne is recorded in Penally. The private status of the holdings suggests that the present fields had already been enclosed by the 17th century, supported by their morphology which suggests a late medieval or early modern date. The area immediately north of Lydstep includes a field called the Langstone, identified as a possible moot-place where the freeholders of the manor met to pay their rents prior to the construction of Lydstep Palace in the late 14th century or 15th century (see Lydstep character area). The customary tenants of Penally held

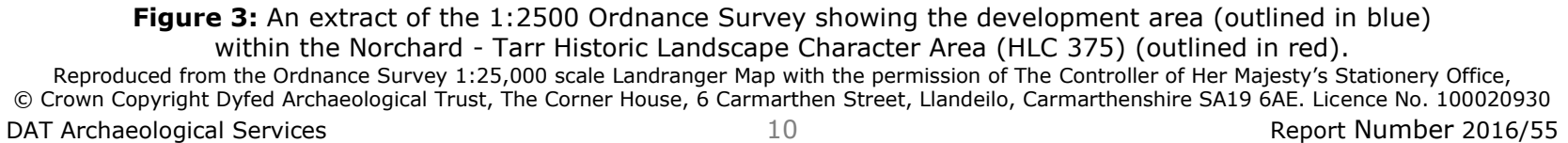


their court at Bubbleton. By the late 18th century, a large part of this area was in the possession of the Picton Castle Estate, including 'The Demesne and Lordship of Norchard'. Consequently there is good historic map coverage from this period. These maps show a landscape virtually identical to that of today. The area is crossed by a railway line, which was opened by the Pembroke and Tenby Railway in 1864 and acquired by the GWR in 1896.

### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

This is a relatively large historic landscape character area that runs from the south Pembrokeshire coastal plain at about 50m above sea level, over the crest of The Ridgeway to the north at over 90m and down towards the Ritec valley to about 30m above sea level. It is an agricultural landscape, characterised by relatively large dispersed farms and large, regular fields. The general north-south trend of these fields suggests that they could have evolved from the north-south aligned strip fields that strongly characterise the landscape character area to the west. Agricultural land-use is approximately 85% improved pasture and 15% arable. There is very little rough ground. To the south of The Ridgeway Atlantic gales have reduced the higher-level, more exposed hedges to straggling lines of bushes, but at lower levels and in the more sheltered northern section hedges are thick and well maintained. Apart from small stands of scrubby deciduous trees in sheltered hollows and planting close to farms, woodland is not a strong component of this landscape. Stone-faced banks topped with hedges are the main boundary type, but occasional mortared limestone walls can be found, particularly alongside roads and tracks and close to farms. Local limestone rubble is the main building material (cement rendered and bare stone), with machine cut slate on the roofs, although a few examples of farm buildings with local stone tiles survive. Substantial houses are present, including some with late medieval elements such as Norchard, and the stone-vaulted ruins at Whitewell, Carswell and Tarr, with others in the late 18th century and 19th century Georgian tradition. Although these houses in the polite Georgian style dominate, there are examples of smaller later 19th century farmhouses with vernacular elements as well as single storey, double fronted cottages. Most of the larger farms have several ranges of stone-built, mainly mid-to-late 19th century outbuildings, some arranged around a courtyard. Several groups of traditional farm buildings have been converted to non-agricultural use. Most working farms have large, modern steel, concrete and asbestos agricultural buildings. The proximity of Tenby, particularly to the eastern side of this area, has promoted the growth of tourist facilities including campsites, caravan parks, a golf course and buggy trail. Three main east-west routeways pass through the area: The Ridgeway, the A4139 and the Tenby to Pembroke railway line. In addition to the ruined medieval houses, recorded archaeology is rich and varied and includes: prehistoric flint working floors, a bronze age round barrow, an iron age defended settlement, a corn mill and several old limestone quarries and limekilns.

Although not dissimilar to some neighbouring areas, the large farmhouses, some with medieval origins and the large, regular fields characterise this landscape. It is not, however, always possible to define its boundaries with precision, except to the west against strip fields and to the south where it borders the coast zone.



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- 3.1.2 The Dyfed Historic Environment Record (HER) was searched for known archaeological sites within immediate proximity to the development area (Table 2; Figure 4). A total of five records were returned. Closest to the development area is Scheduled Ancient Monument West Tarr vaulted hall house (PE423) (PRNs 6651, 59446, NPRN 305131), which is located immediately north-east of the development area. PRN 6651 appears to be a point for the scheduled area of which PRN 59446 (and subsequently NPRN 305131) is related specifically to the remains of West Tarr vaulted hall house. These remains are also listed as a Grade I Listed Building (ref: 16920). Thought to be medieval in origin, the exact date of the house is uncertain, but it is considered to be one of an important set of surviving Pembrokeshire medieval houses of small size. Limestone rubble built and slate roofed, the main room is no greater in size than 4m x 3m and has a vaulted undercroft. However, later alterations have subsequently destroyed sections of the undercroft.
- 3.1.3 Thought to be associated with West Tarr vaulted hall house is a possible storage building (PRN 59447) located approximately 17.55m north-east of the development area. This building is a Grade II Listed Building (ref: 16921) and comprises a two-storey, limestone rubble built, now unroofed building. Finally, there are the remains of a post-medieval limekiln (PRN 15877) located approximately 60m north-west of the development area.

## **3.2 Historic Mapping**

### ***Penally Parish tithe map c.1842***

- 3.2.1 The Penally Parish tithe map depicts the modest farmstead of "West Tar" which comprises a single building sited in the area encompassing West Tarr vaulted hall house (PE423) (Figure 5). This presumably is a farmhouse which most likely encompassed the earlier, medieval building. The present farmhouse has yet to be constructed and consequently the development area is shown to be vacant and undeveloped.

### ***1<sup>st</sup> edition Pembrokeshire Ordnance Survey map of 1890***

- 3.2.2 The 1<sup>st</sup> edition, Pembrokeshire 1:25000 Ordnance Survey map of 1890 documents the progression of the West Tar farmstead to "West Tarr Farm" (Figure 6.). The building shown on the tithe map is now depicted as being extant but roofless, whilst several additional roofed buildings have since been constructed adjacent and nearby. A single track way is depicted traversing the farm yard northwards, turning abruptly west past a limekiln (PRN 15877) and a quarry. There are smaller areas of possible quarrying shown within the south and eastern parts of the development area. The present West Tarr farmhouse is yet to be constructed and the area remains undeveloped.

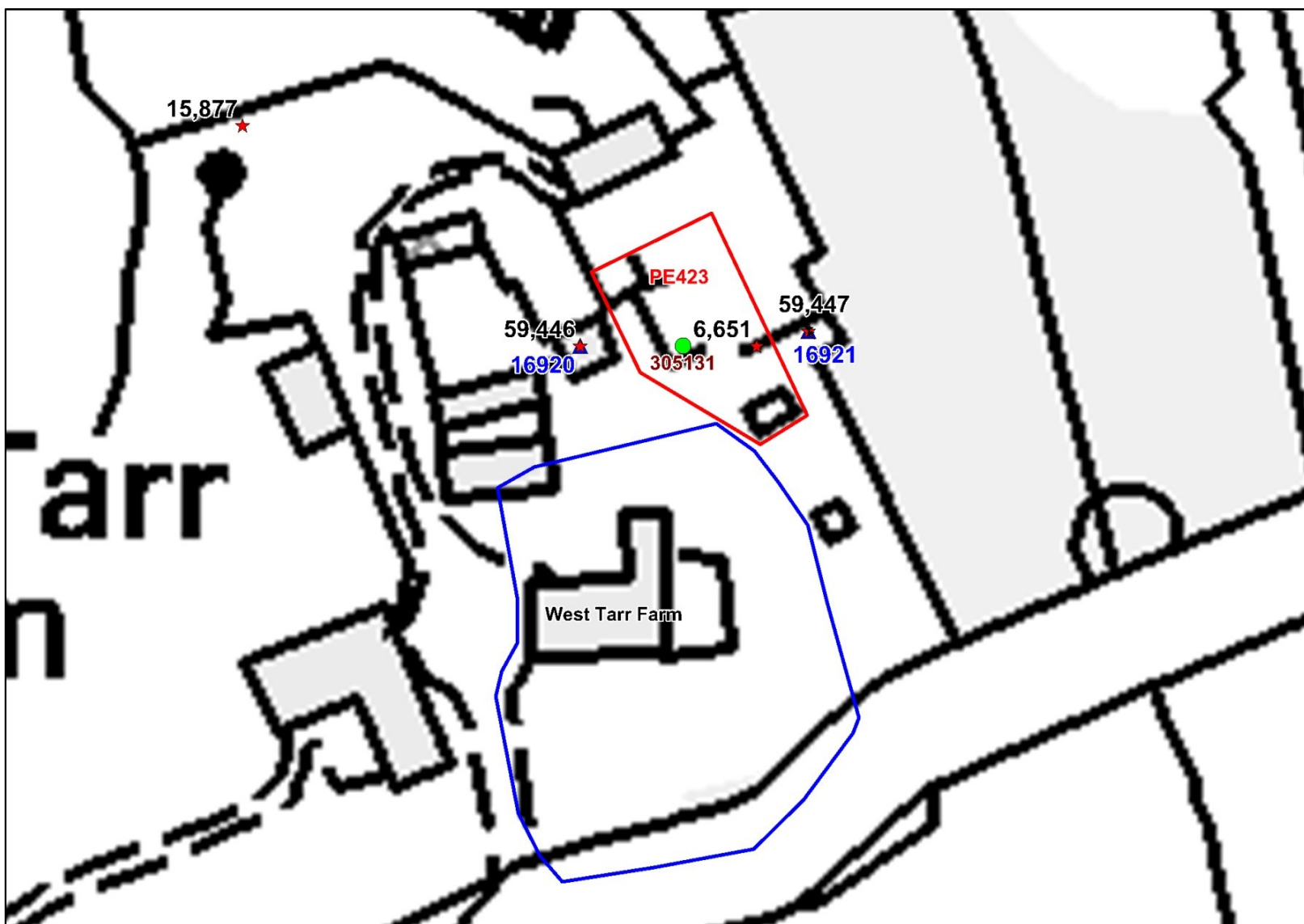
### ***2<sup>nd</sup> edition Pembrokeshire Ordnance Survey map of 1907***

- 3.2.3 The present West Tarr Farm farmhouse located within the development area is shown on the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Pembrokeshire 1:25000 Ordnance Survey map of 1907 (Figure 7). A number of buildings to the north of the farmhouse are now depicted as being extant but roofless. The limekiln (PRN 15877) is still shown with an additional "Old Limekiln" depicted south-east of the farm. The quarried areas are also still shown but not annotated as such.

PRN	NPRN	Site Name	Site Type	Period	Description	NGR	Listed Building Number	Distance to site (m)
6651	305131	WEST TARR	Vaulted Hall House	Medieval	<b>Scheduled Ancient Monument PE423:</b> The monument consists of the remains of a house measuring 7.5m long, 5m wide, 6.5m high to ridge. It is stone built and consists of two stone vaults, a 2.3m high ground floor flat vault, with a 3.8m high more pointed vault on 1st floor level. The remains of the lateral chimney are scanty, as the upper part has gone, and the lower part has been broken through to provide the first floor entrance. One ground floor end wall has gone, but the position of the stair linking the two floors is clear. Both floors have medieval slit windows. The roof is slate, but in poor condition. Referred to in documents along with Carswell, with which it is closely related. The monument is of national importance for its potential to enhance our knowledge of settlement and domestic activity. It retains significant archaeological potential, with a strong probability of the presence of associated archaeological features and deposits. The structure itself may be expected to contain archaeological information concerning chronology and building techniques. A house may be part of a larger cluster of monuments and their importance can further enhanced by their group value. The scheduled area comprises the remains described and areas around them within which related evidence may be expected to survive.	SN08920080		11.93 (NE)
15877		No Name	Lime Kiln	Post-Medieval	The remains of one of 2 limekilns located on West Tarr Farm, near St Florence, Pembrokeshire. The other is situated approximately 250m to the south.	SN08850083		60.22 (NW)
59446	305131	WEST TARR MEDIAEVAL HOUSE	House	Medieval	<b>Grade I listed medieval house LB Ref No 16920:</b> West Tarr is mentioned in a document of 1324 (representing a tenth of a knight's fee). The date of the house is unclear, but it is one of an important set of surviving Pembrokeshire mediaeval houses of small size. West Tarr alone has an upper vault. It lacks any defensive character. It has undergone alterations at an unknown date and an extended part of its undercroft vault has been destroyed. The house has been taken into the care of Cadw and its roof restored. It is a very small house with a vaulted roof and a vaulted undercroft. The walls comprise of Limestone rubble with selected larger stones at the corners. The main room is about 4 m long by 3 m wide, with a pointed roof vault about 4 m high. The slate covering of the roof was recently restored. The roof and undercroft vaults both run E/W, parallel to the slope in the ground into which the house is built. There were two original doorways to the main room, both now blocked. One was at the SW corner, and was reached by stairs (of which a fragment survives) from the level of the undercroft. The undercroft vault is of shallow segmental form, and originally extended further W than the limits of the main room above it. The other doorway was an	SN0889600800	16920	14.55 (N)

					external one at the SE corner, to which there must have been external stairs or a ladder. There was also a slit window in the E wall. There was an original fireplace in the S wall with a slight external projection. In later alterations the original fireplace was broken through to form a doorway leading directly to the high ground S of the house. The original Eastern door was blocked and a new fireplace formed adjacent. A flue was formed in the wall thickness for it. A large window was inserted in the North wall. The extended part of the undercroft West of the main room was demolished. Wall footings, including a pair of bread ovens, extend to the North and probably represent later structures. Listed Grade I as an exceptionally well preserved small mediaeval tower-house of S Pembrokeshire type, and the most complete surviving example. Ancient Monument No. Pe 423 Reference: P Smith, Houses of the Welsh Countryside (1988), p.23, fig 8a, & map 1.; Information from R Turner.			
59447		OLD BUILDING EAST OF WEST TARR MEDIEVAL HOUSE	Storage Building	Post-Medieval	<p><b>Grade II listed storage building LB Ref No 16921:</b></p> <p>The age of this two-storey building surviving is unknown, but it may have been in some relationship with the mediaeval house at some period; now it is an unroofed ruin. It may be thought too narrow to have served as a house itself, and may have been a storage building associated with the mediaeval house. Its South gable, facing the higher ground, and where there may have been a door to the upper storey, appears to have been rebuilt recently. The structure is built into the same steep slope as the nearby mediaeval house, but its long axis is at right angles to the contours instead of parallel. Rubble limestone walls approx. 0.5 m thick. The upper floor was carried on about nine joists and the roof was also of timber construction. There is no sign of there ever having been any vaulting. The floor area is only approx. 2.2 m by 5 m. There is an entrance doorway to the lower storey at the North end of the West side wall, with inside rebates. The upper storey has a slit window in the North gable with internal rebate suggesting a shutter. Listed for group value with the mediaeval house.</p>	SN0892700802	16921	17.55 (NE)

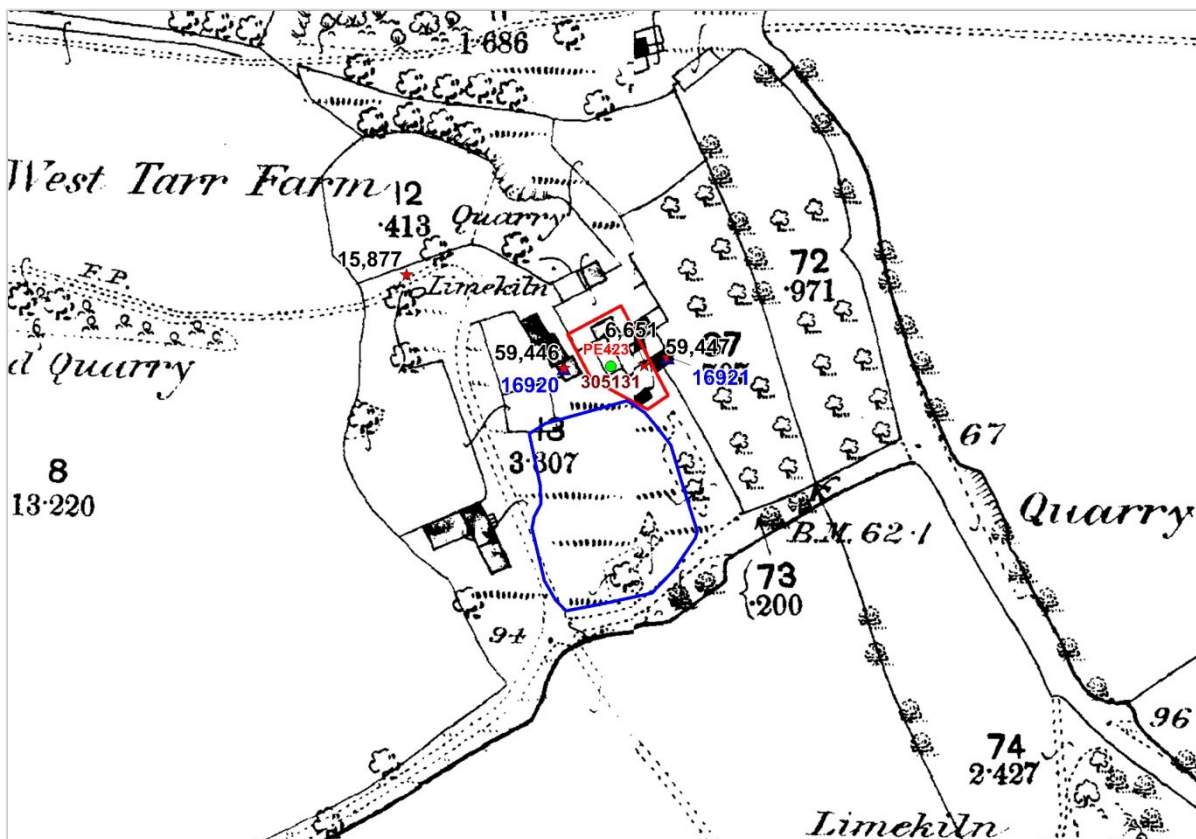
**Table 2:** Known archaeological and historic sites within immediate proximity to the development area at West Tarr Farm recorded on the Dyfed Historic Environment Record (Figure 4).



**Figure 4:** Recorded archaeological sites with the Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record, within immediate proximity of the development area (outlined in blue) at West Tarr Farm, St Florence, Pembrokeshire

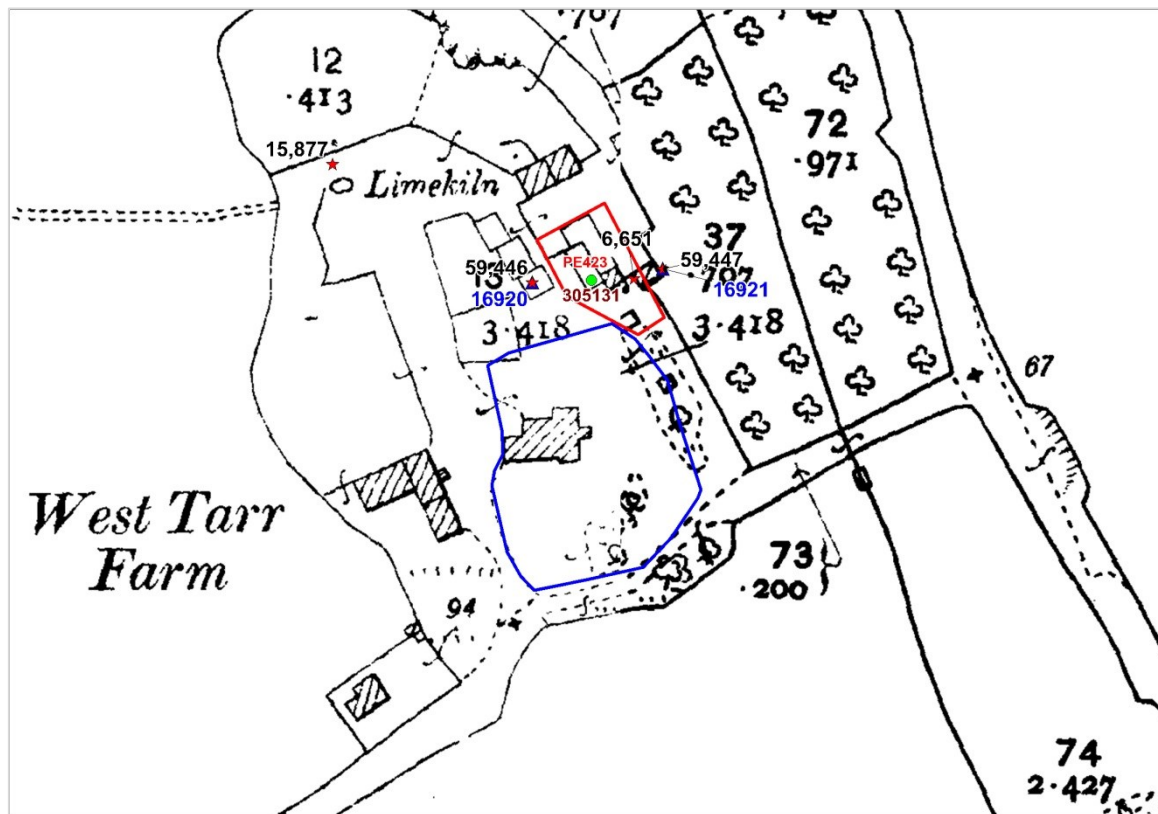


**Figure 5:** An extract from the Penally tithe map c.1842 showing the West Tar farmstead and the vacant development area (outlined in blue)



**Figure 6:** An extract from the 1890 1:2500 1<sup>st</sup> edition, Pembrokeshire Ordnance Survey West Tarr Farm and the development area (outlined in blue).





**Figure 7:** An extract from the 1907 1:2500 1<sup>st</sup> edition Pembrokeshire Ordnance Survey map showing the late 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse within the development area (outlined in blue)

3.2.4 The cartographic evidence documents the post-medieval progression of West Tarr from farmstead to farm and documents the lifespan of some of the outbuildings. These developments may well represent the changing agricultural practices and/or socioeconomic circumstances of the area and its inhabitants; as also reflected by the presence (and subsequent abandonment) of the quarries and limekilns within the immediate vicinity of the farm.

## 4 WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY

### 4.1 Fieldwork

- 4.1.1 This watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014).
- 4.1.2 A written scheme of investigation was prepared by DAT Archaeological Services detailing the proposed archaeological works, which was approved by DAT-DM in their capacity as advisors to the local planning authority.
- 4.1.3 Recording of all archaeological features or deposits conformed to best current professional practice and was carried out in accordance with the Recording Manual<sup>2</sup> used by DAT Archaeological Services. A written, drawn and photographic record was maintained throughout this watching brief, a summary of which is presented in Appendix 2. All contexts encountered during this watching brief were

<sup>2</sup> 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.

recorded and assigned a unique context number. These numbers are enclosed in brackets in the following text.

- 4.1.4 Excavation of the foundation trenches and new highway access was undertaken by tracked excavator equipped with a c. 1.2m ditching bucket. All archaeological deposits revealed during the groundworks were examined and recorded to an appropriate level.

#### **4.2 Timetabling of Fieldwork**

- 4.2.1 This watching brief took place on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2016 during fine weather conditions.

#### **4.3 Post-Fieldwork Reporting and Archiving**

- 4.3.1 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.
- 4.3.2 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.

### **5 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

- 5.1 This watching brief monitored the mechanical topsoil stripping of two foundation trenches and a new highway access to West Tarr Farm (Figure 8).
- 5.2 On arrival, the locations of the foundation trenches, and new access route were demarcated and photographed. Foundation Trench 1 was located at the southern gable end of the farmhouse (Photo 1) with the Trench 2 located to the rear of the house, along the western end (Photo 2). The new highway access commenced south-east of the farmhouse, curving gently up to the house with an ascent of around 3m (Photo 3).

#### ***Trench 1***

- 5.3 Work began with the topsoil stripping of Trench 1 at the southern gable end of the house. A modern concrete path truncated across the width of the trench area. Trench 1 actually comprised a trench measuring approximately 7.2m east-west and 8.6m north-south (Photo 4). Between 160mm – 250mm of loamy, medium brown topsoil (101) was removed, from which fragments of late, post-medieval white-glazed pottery, fragments of animal bone, coal, glass and slate were recovered but not retained. Removal of the topsoil revealed an orange-brown, clay-silt subsoil (102) through which the limestone bedrock (103) was protruding (Photo 5). No archaeological deposits or features were seen in this trench.

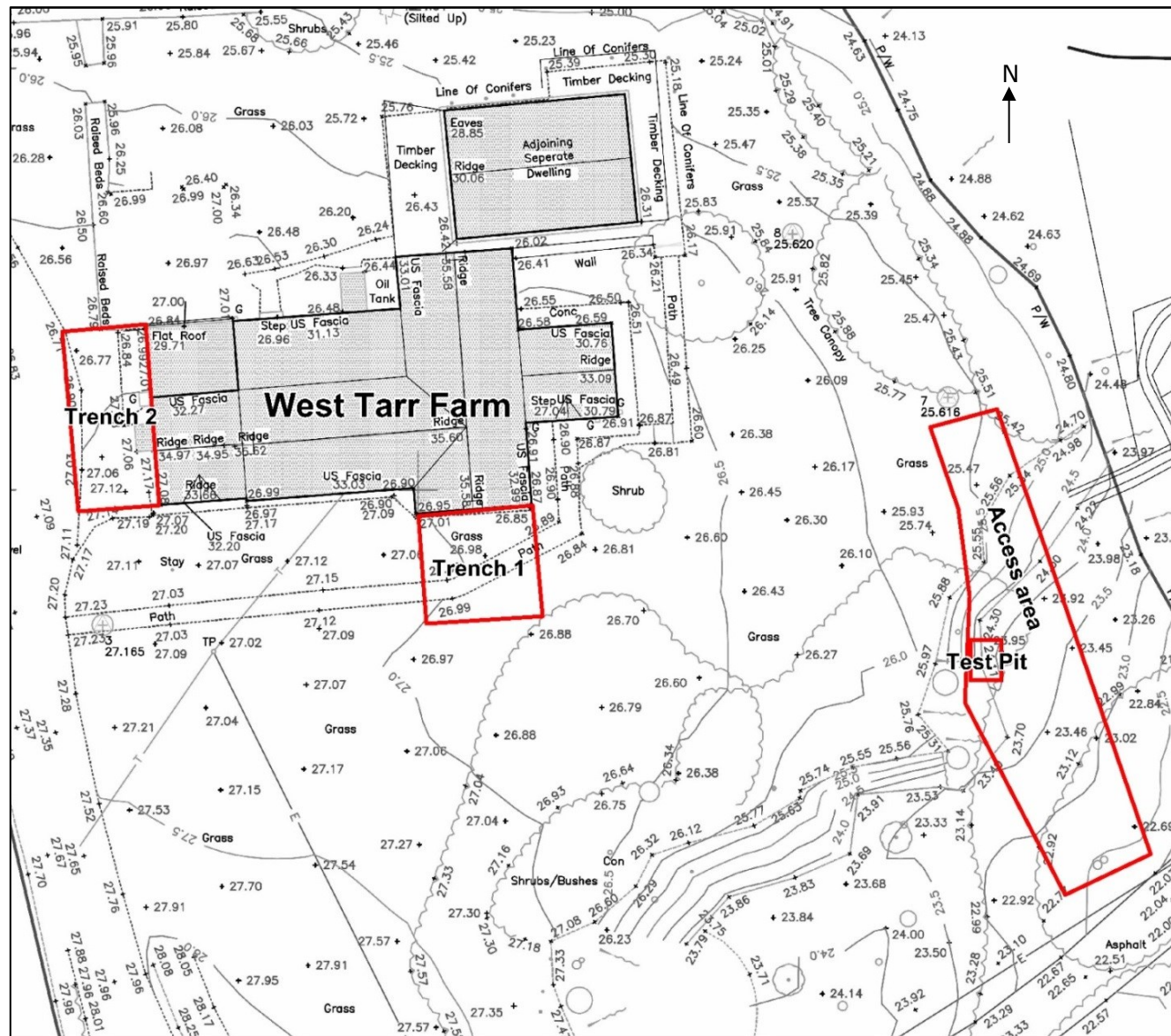


**Photo 4:** The stripped Trench 1 located at the southern gable of the farmhouse. 2 x 1m scales (DAT Photo 4117-109392).



**Photo 5:** The limestone bedrock (103) protruding through the clay-silt subsoil (102) in Trench 1. 2 x 1m scales (DAT Photo 4112-109392).





**Figure 8:** Plan showing location of the foundation trenches, and extent of watched area for new highway access and excavated test pit. (Plan not to scale; supplied by Tim Colquhoun Architects Ltd)

## ***Trench 2***

- 5.4 Trench 2 was located parallel to the western end of the house, in an area of gravel hardstanding (Photo 2). Trench 2 was an irregular shaped trench of maximum dimensions 6.1m x 6.8m x 1.2m wide (a single bucket width as before). Around 100mm of gravel hardstanding material (201) was removed to reveal that the area had previously been stripped of soil (presumably during periods relating to the construction and recent extension to the house), revealing limestone bedrock (202) (Photos 6 & 7). A small exploratory hole was excavated by the contractors against the base of the wall at the southern end of the trench to locate a modern cable. No archaeological features or deposits were seen in this trench.



**Photo 6:** Stripping the gravel hardstanding (201) within Trench 2 revealing the limestone bedrock (202) below (DAT Photo 4106-109392).





**Photo 7:** Trench 2 – after the removal of gravel hardstanding (201) revealing limestone bedrock (202). 2 x 1m scales (DAT Photo 4118-109392).



### **Access area**

- 5.5 Finally, work progressed to the removal of vegetation and stripping for the new highway access route. As identified on historic mapping, there is a disused quarry located at the south-east of the limestone outcrop on which the house sits. The quarry has been disused for some time and consequently heavily vegetated and has been partially backfilled. The new highway traverses the eastern edge of the quarry (Photo 3). Up to 450mm of humic topsoil and detritus (301) was removed and a small test pit measuring approximately 1.5m wide and 2m long was excavated along the western side of the edge of the route, nearest to the quarry face (SN0892800749) (Photo 8). A layer of slacked lime (302) was revealed to be underlying the humic overburden. This layer of lime varied in thickness from around 50mm – 250mm, appeared to contain charcoal and overlay up to 650mm of limestone rubble in a light brown-grey, silt (303) which overlay the limestone bedrock (304). This test pit was backfilled and no further levels were excavated (Photo 9.) although it was possible to reveal a small section of the quarry face above the test pit (Photo 10).
- 5.6 In the limited area of the test pit it was not possible to identify any associated cuts, features or structures with the lime layer (303). It is possible that this layer represents kiln waste from nearby limekiln (PRN 15877) situated some 100m north of the test pit, or *in situ* slacking of quicklime for the production of mortar.
- 5.7 The excavations for the access route did not venture further west into the quarry and subsequently, if there are further archaeological remains within this vicinity, they were not in danger of being damaged by the groundworks. No other deposits or features of archaeological interest were seen within this area.



**Photo 8:** The ranging poles indicate the location of the test pit excavated within the new access area. 1m scale (DAT Photo 4129-109392).





**Photo 9:** The stripped new highway access route (DAT Photo 4133-109392).





**Photo 10:** The lower ranging pole indicates the approximate base of the lime layer (302) whilst the upper pole indicates a small section of the quarry face revealed above the test pit excavated within the new access area. 2 x 1m scales (DAT Photo 4132-109392).



## **6 CONCLUSIONS**

- 6.1. This watching brief monitored the groundworks associated with proposed development at West Tarr Farm; that included the topsoil stripping for two foundation trenches and a new highway access route to the farmhouse. A planning decision condition was placed upon the development owing to its proximity to Scheduled Ancient Monument PE423; West Tarr vaulted hall house.
- 6.2. Owing to the topography of the area, West Tarr Farmhouse is actually situated in an elevated position above the scheduled monument on a limestone outcrop. There is a disused and partly backfilled quarry located to the south-east of the house, through which the new highway access ascends to the house. Topsoil stripping of the foundation trenches revealed the thin nature of the soils overlying the limestone bedrock. Consequently no archaeological features or deposits were identified during the topsoil stripping of the foundation trenches although a layer of slaked lime was revealed within a small test pit excavated in the backfill of the quarry.
- 6.3. No kiln structure was identified within the immediate vicinity although there are at least two known kilns situated approximately 106m north and 144m south of the test pit. It is possible that this layer of lime represents kiln waste or even possibly *in situ* slacking of quicklime for the production of mortar.
- 6.2. With the exception of the backfilled quarry and associated lime layer, no archaeological features or deposits were revealed during this watching brief. Nor did the development adversely impact on the scheduled area of PE423. Whilst the result of this watching brief is negative, it does not negate the possibility of significant archaeology surviving elsewhere within the vicinity.

## **7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 7.1. Fieldwork and reporting was undertaken by Menna Bell. The author would like to extend grateful thanks to Barrie Thomas of Barrie Thomas Builders for his assistance during this watching brief. The author would also like to thank the groundsmen and digger driver Gareth for their co-operation and assistance.

## **8. SOURCES**

### **Published**

British Geological Survey: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>  
(Accessed October 2016)

Cadw 1998. Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales.

Murphy, K,. 2000. *Carmarthenshire Landscape Characterisation*.  
Dyfed Archaeological Trust.

Smith, P,. 1988. *Houses of the Welsh Countryside; A study in historical geography* (Second Edition). Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales

### **Cartographic**

Penally tithe map c.1842

Ordnance Survey; Pembrokeshire 1<sup>st</sup> edition 1:2500 1890

Ordnance Survey; Pembrokeshire 2nd edition 1:2500 1907

### **Database**

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record, housed with Dyfed Archaeological Trust in The Corner House, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire, SA19 6AE

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

Cof Cymru - National Historic Assets of Wales

<http://cadw.gov.wales/historicenvironment/recordsv1/cof-cymru/?lang=en>

## APPENDIX I

### Project Archive

Project Number: FS16\_029

ERN: 109392

1 x Watching Brief Form

31 Digital photographs; Film Number 109392

1x Photo catalogue

1 x MapInfo GIS table; FS16\_029\_Watched\_Areas (.DAT, .ID, .MAP, .TAB)

### Context Register

Context	Trench	Description
101	Trench 1	Loamy, medium brown topsoil
102	Trench 1	Orange-brown, clay-silt subsoil
103	Trench 1	Limestone bedrock
201	Trench 2	Gravel hardstanding
202	Trench 2	Limestone bedrock
301	Access Route	Humic topsoil and detritus
302	Access Route	Layer of slacked lime seen in test pit in access route
303	Access Route	Limestone rubble in a light brown-grey, silt
303	Access Route	Limestone bedrock

## APPENDIX II

### **PROPOSED NEW GARAGE AND SUN ROOM, AND NEW HIGHWAY ACCESS AT WEST TARR FARM, ST FLORENCE, PEMBROKESHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION**

#### **1. Introduction**

This written scheme of investigation has been prepared by DAT Archaeological Services in response to a request from Andrew Armour to provide an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with a proposed new garage and sun room, as well as new highway access at West Tarr Farm, St Florence, Pembrokeshire (centred on SN08900075) (Figure 1, Photo 1). The works will include a new garage, sun room and highway access (Planning Application Ref No.16/0048/PA).

The requirement for a scheme of archaeological mitigation has been placed upon the development proposals to mitigate against the building works by Pembrokeshire County Council Local Planning Authority following advice from their archaeological advisors, Dyfed Archaeological Trust – Development Management (DAT-DM).

The planning condition states:

*No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the local planning authority'.*

*Reason: to protect historic environment interests whilst enabling development*

This condition has been placed on the planning decision because the development area is adjacent to the medieval West Tarr vaulted Hall House (Scheduled Ancient Monument PE423, PRN 6651, Figure 2). West Tarr is a vaulted first-floor hall and tower house, likened to Irish early modern tower houses. Of uncertain date, it is a very small house; the main room measures no more than 4m x 3m. It is built of limestone rubble, has a vaulted roof and undercroft, although sections of this undercroft have been destroyed during past alterations. The original entrances are now blocked and the original fireplace was knocked through to create an external doorway during an unknown period of alteration. A similar structure stands at Carswell, 0.8km to the east (PRN 60042).

Consequently there is a strong possibility that archaeological material associated with medieval activity may extend into the application area and that any remains surviving as buried archaeological features will be adversely affected by the proposed development.

The following written scheme of investigation outlines the methodology through which DAT Archaeological Services will undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at the site, which have the potential to expose, damage or destroy archaeological remains. The approval of the written scheme of investigation and its successful implementation will be required in order to satisfy the archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority.

The written scheme of investigation is in accordance with the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014).

DAT Archaeological Services has considerable experience of this type of project and always operates to best professional practice. DAT Archaeological Services is the contractual arm of Dyfed Archaeological Trust that has its own Health and

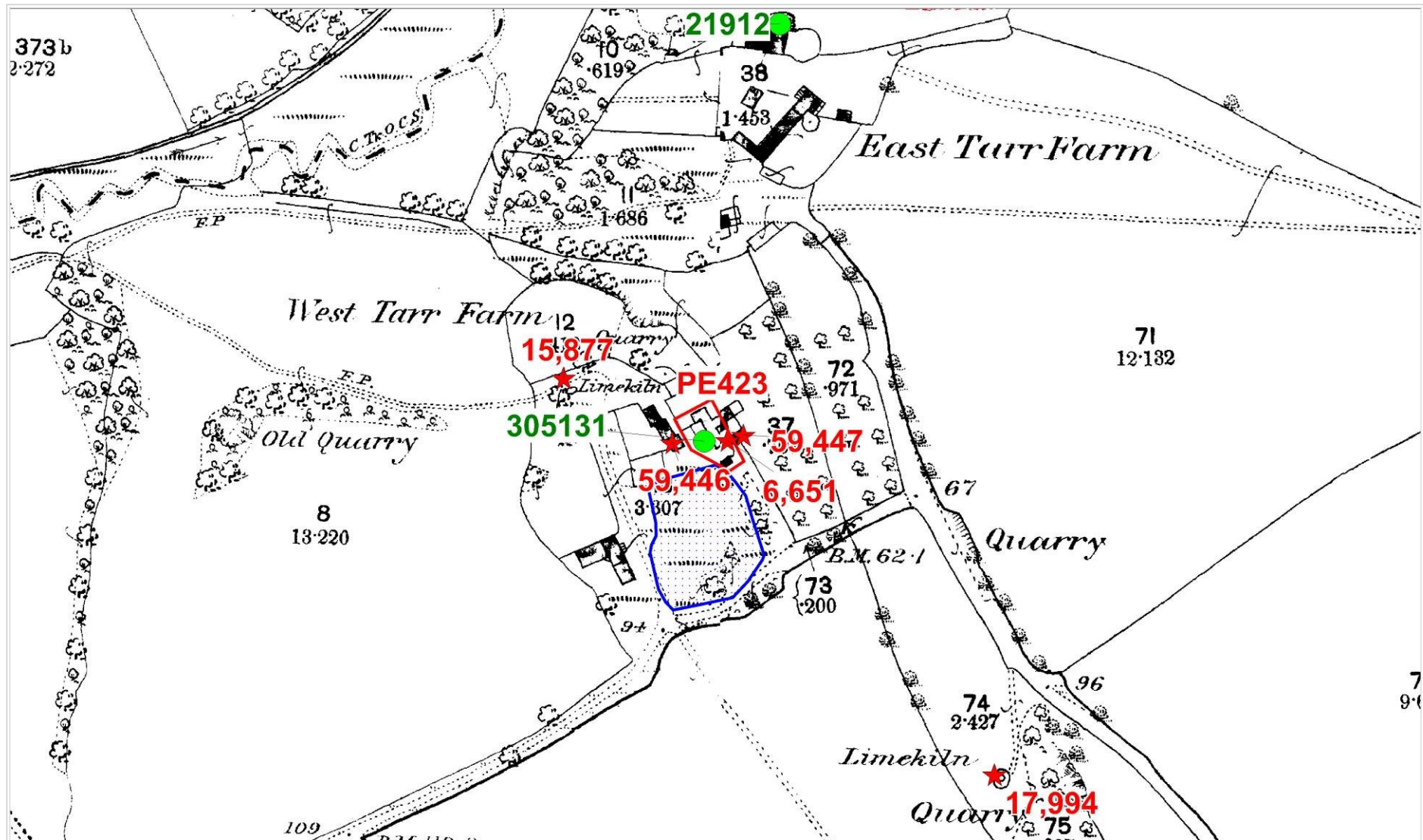


Safety Policy, and all works are covered by appropriate Employer's Liability and Public Liability Insurances. Copies of all are available on request.

**Dyfed Archaeological Trust is a CIfA Registered Organisation and all permanent staff are CSCS registered.**



**Figure 1:** Site location plan showing the proposed development area (outlined in red). Plan supplied by client.



**Figure 2:** An extract of the Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> edition 25" map published 1890 showing the locations of known archaeological sites within close vicinity of the development area (outlined in blue). The sites are listed in Table 1 below.

PRN	NPRN	NAME	SITE TYPE	DESCRIPTION	PERIOD	GRID REF
6651	305131	West Tarr Vaulted Hall House  <b>Scheduled Ancient Monument PE423</b>	House (domestic)	The monument consists of the remains of a house measuring 7.5m long, 5m wide, 6.5m high to ridge. It is stone built and consists of two stone vaults, a 2.3m high ground floor flat vault, with a 3.8m high more pointed vault on 1st floor level. The remains of the lateral chimney are scanty, as the upper part has gone, and the lower part has been broken through to provide the first floor entrance. One ground floor end wall has gone, but the position of the stair linking the two floors is clear. Both floors have medieval slit windows. The roof is slate, but in poor condition. Referred to in documents along with Carswell, with which it is closely related. The monument is of national importance for its potential to enhance our knowledge of settlement and domestic activity. It retains significant archaeological potential, with a strong probability of the presence of associated archaeological features and deposits. The structure itself may be expected to contain archaeological information concerning chronology and building techniques. A house may be part of a larger cluster of monuments and their importance can further enhanced by their group value. The scheduled area comprises the remains described and areas around them within which related evidence may be expected to survive.	Medieval	SN08910080
15877		West Tarr Farm Limekiln (N)	Limekiln	The remains of one of 2 limekilns located on West Tarr Farm, near St Florence, Pembrokeshire. The other is situated approximately 250m to the south.	Post-medieval	SN08850083
17994		West Tarr Farm Limekiln (S)	Limekiln	The remains of one of 2 limekilns located on West Tarr Farm, near St Florence, Pembrokeshire. The other is situated approximately 250m to the north.	Post-medieval	SN09030065
59446		West Tarr Vaulted Hall House  <b>Grade I Listed Building Ref No 16920</b>	House (domestic)	West Tarr is mentioned in a document of 1324 (representing a tenth of a knight's fee). The date of the house is unclear, but it is one of an important set of surviving Pembrokeshire mediaeval houses of small size. West Tarr alone has an upper vault. It lacks any defensive character. It has undergone alterations at an unknown date and an extended part of its undercroft vault has been destroyed. The house has been taken into the care of Cadw and its roof restored. Description: A very small house with a vaulted roof and a vaulted undercroft. Limestone rubble with selected larger stones at the corners. The main room is about 4 m long by 3 m wide, with a pointed roof vault about 4 m high. The slate covering of the roof was recently restored. The roof and undercroft vaults both run E/W, parallel to the slope in the ground into which the house is built. There were two original doorways to the main room, both now blocked. One was at the SW corner, and was reached by stairs (of which a fragment survives) from the level of the undercroft. The undercroft vault is of shallow segmental form, and originally extended further W than the limits of the main room above it. The other doorway was an external one at the SE corner, to which there must have been external stairs or a ladder. There was also a slit window in the E wall. There was an original fireplace in the S wall with a slight external projection. In later alterations the original fireplace was broken through to form a doorway leading directly to the high ground S of the house. The original E door was blocked and a new fireplace formed adjacent. A flue was formed in the wall thickness for it. A large window was inserted in the N wall. The extended part of the undercroft W of the main room was demolished. Wall footings, including a pair of bread ovens, extend to the N and probably represent later structures. Listed Grade I as an exceptionally well preserved small mediaeval tower-house of S Pembrokeshire type, and the most complete surviving example. Ancient Monument No. Pe 423 Reference: P Smith, Houses of the Welsh Countryside (1988), p.23, fig 8a, & map 1.; Information	Medieval	SN08910080

				from R Turner.		
59447		Old Building East of West Tarr Medieval House  <i>Grade II Listed Building Ref No 16921</i>		<p>About 24 m SE of West Tarr Mediaeval House, at the rear of West Tarr Farm is this surviving two-storey building, whose date is unknown, but it may have been in some relationship with the mediaeval house at some period; now it is an unroofed ruin. It may be thought too narrow to have served as a house itself, and may have been a storage building associated with the mediaeval house. Its S gable, facing the higher ground, and where there may have been a door to the upper storey, appears to have been rebuilt recently.</p> <p>The structure is built into the same steep slope as the nearby mediaeval house, but its long axis is at right angles to the contours instead of parallel. Rubble limestone walls approx. 0.5 m thick. The upper floor was carried on about nine joists and the roof was also of timber construction. There is no sign of there ever having been any vaulting.</p> <p>The floor area is only approx. 2.2 m by 5 m. There is an entrance doorway to the lower storey at the N end of the W side wall, with inside rebates. The upper storey has a slit window in the N gable with internal rebate suggesting a shutter.</p> <p>Listed for group value with the mediaeval house.</p>	Medieval	SN08920080
-----	21912	East Tarr farmhouse	House (domestic)		Post-medieval	SN08950098

**Table 1:** Summary of known archaeological sites within the vicinity of the development area; illustrated in Figure 2.





**Photo 1:** Aerial photograph taken in 1989 of West Tarr Farm – looking rough southwards.  
The development area lies within the red circle (DAT AP89-016).

## **1 WATCHING BRIEF**

- 1.1 *The definition of archaeological watching brief, taken from the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standards and Guidance: for Archaeological Watching Briefs (CIfA S&G: AWB 2014) is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive.*
- 1.2 *The purpose of a watching brief, as laid down in the CIfA S&G AWB is:*
- to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works;
- to provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment.
- 1.3 *This document provides a scheme of works for:*
- Archaeological attendance and recording during groundworks associated with proposed developments at West Tarr Farm, St Florence, Pembrokeshire, which are likely to expose damage or destroy archaeological remains, and the appropriate investigation and recording of any such remains if revealed. The works will also include the production of a report and archive.*

## **2 PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

- 2.1 Provision of a written scheme of investigation to outline the methodology by which DAT Archaeological Services will undertake the archaeological watching brief.
- 2.2 To monitor groundworks in order to identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- 2.3 To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed groundworks.
- 2.4 To appropriately investigate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the groundworks.
- 2.5 To produce an archive and report of any results.

## **3 FIELDWORK**

- 3.1 A 'watching brief' undertaken at the commencement of groundworks at the site that have the potential to expose, damage or destroy underlying archaeological remains. This will require the presence of an archaeologist during all groundworks associated with the construction of a new garage, sun room and highway access, where there is potential for archaeological remains to be present. These works may include, but are not limited to, topsoil stripping, excavation of foundation trenches and excavation of service trenches.
- 3.2 It is essential that a project timetable is made available to the archaeologist as soon as possible in order to co-ordinate the monitoring visits so that delays to the development can be minimised.

- 3.3 Any archaeological features or deposits revealed during the groundworks will be examined and recorded to an appropriate level.
- 3.4 Recording of all archaeological features or deposits will conform to best current professional practice and be carried out in accordance with the Recording Manual<sup>3</sup> used by DAT Archaeological Services. Significant archaeological features or deposits will be drawn at a suitable scale (no less than 1:20) and photographed in an appropriate format.
- 3.5 All archaeologically significant finds will be retained and, where possible, related to the contexts from which they derived. Finds will be temporarily stored by DAT Archaeological Services in stable conditions. All finds, except those deemed to be Treasure Trove, will remain the property of the landowner. It is assumed that permission will be granted for any finds recovered to be stored within the site archive for the project or within a local museum or other suitable repository.
- 3.6 In the event that unforeseen archaeological discoveries are made during the development, or that archaeological remains of high significance are exposed, DAT Archaeological Services shall have the power to halt any ground works and shall inform the site agent/project manager and the curatorial officer, and prepare a written statement with plan detailing the archaeological evidence. Following assessment of the archaeological remains by the curatorial officer, DAT Archaeological Services shall, if required, implement on behalf of the Client a contingency scheme for salvage excavation of affected archaeological features. In these instances it would be necessary to employ extra resources to record such features to an appropriate standard.
- 3.7 Should any human remains be encountered the District Coroner's Office and the Police will be notified immediately. All human remains will, where possible, be left in situ. If preservation in situ is not possible all statutory permissions will be obtained in writing before removal begins.

#### **4 QUALITY ASSURANCE**

- 4.1 DAT Archaeological Services has considerable experience of undertaking all categories of archaeological fieldwork and always operates to best professional practice; adhering to CIfA guidelines where appropriate. The Trust is a Registered Organisation with CIfA and all staff abide by their code of conduct and adhere to their relevant standards and guidance.
- 4.2 DAT Archaeological Services operate robust internal monitoring procedures that ensure that the standard of each project is maintained from commencement to completion.

#### **5 MONITORING**

- 5.1 The fieldwork may need to be monitored by Dyfed Archaeological Trust – Development Management, in their role as archaeological advisors to the planning authority, who should be provided access to the site at any time during the works. The Head of DAT Archaeological Services may also monitor on-site works.

#### **6 POST-FIELDWORK REPORTING AND ARCHIVING**

- 6.1 All data recovered during the fieldwork 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.
- 6.2 The results of the fieldwork will be assessed in local, regional and wider contexts.

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<sup>3</sup> DAT Archaeological Services has adopted the Recording Manual developed by English Heritage Centre for Archaeology. A copy will be available on-site for inspection if required.

- 6.3 A report that is fully representative of the results of the fieldwork will be prepared and copies will be sent to the client for dissemination to all relevant parties.
- 6.4 A summary of the project results, excluding any confidential information, may be prepared for wider dissemination (e.g. Archaeology in Wales and special interest and period-specific journals).
- 6.5 The project archive, including all artefacts and ecofacts (excepting those which may be deemed to be Treasure Trove) will be deposited with an appropriate body following agreement with the landowner.
- 6.6 A copy of the final report will be deposited with the regional HER within six months of the completion of the project.

## **7 STAFF**

- 7.1 This project will be managed by Fran Murphy, Project Manager DAT Archaeological Services.
- 7.2 Archaeological attendance during the watching brief will be undertaken by staff drawn from the team of archaeologists employed by DAT Archaeological Services.

## **8 HEALTH AND SAFETY**

- 8.1 All DAT Archaeological Services staff are CSCS<sup>4</sup> registered.
- 8.2 DAT Archaeological Services will carry out a health and safety risk assessment to ensure that all potential risks are minimised.
- 8.3 All known health and safety risk and the presence of any services etc must be made known to the attending archaeologist at the start of any groundworks by the client/site contractor.
- 8.4 All relevant health and safety regulations must be followed.
- 8.5 All site inductions, H&S procedures and site rules of the site contractor will be made known to DAT Archaeological Services staff prior to them commencing work on-site.
- 8.6 Safety helmets, high visibility vests and boots are to be used by all site personnel as necessary. The site contractors will make all archaeological staff aware of any other PPE<sup>5</sup> that may be required and provide them. Archaeological staff must not enter any area where there is a considered to be a health and safety risk that has not or is not being appropriately mitigated against.
- 8.7 DAT Archaeological Services staff must ensure that their presence on site is communicated to all relevant site staff, especially machine operators.

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<sup>4</sup> *Construction Skills Certification Scheme (Health and Safety Tested)*

<sup>5</sup> *Personal Protection Equipment*



**PROPOSED NEW GARAGE, SUN ROOM AND NEW  
HIGHWAY ACCESS AT WEST TARR FARM,  
PEMBROKESHIRE  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST**

**RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2016/55  
RHIF Y DIGWYLLIAD / EVENT RECORD NO. 109392**

Ionawr 2017  
January 2017

Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan / This report has been prepared by:

**Menna Bell**

Swydd / Position: Archaeologist DAT Archaeological Services

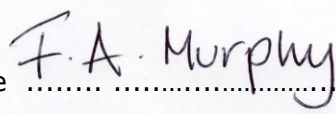
Llofnod / Signature .....  ..... Date: 06/01/2017

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: 06/01/2017

*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*



