

**PLOT NORTH OF TY NEWYDD,
PUNCHESTON, PEMBROKESHIRE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF
(NGR SN 0074 2975)**



Prepared by DAT Archaeological Services
For: Casper Homes Ltd



DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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PLOT NORTH OF TY NEWYDD, PUNCHESTON, PEMBROKESHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF (NGR SN 5800 4811)

Gan / By

Hubert Wilson

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PLOT NORTH OF TY NEWYDD, PUNCTESTON, PEMBROKESHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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**PLOT NORTH OF TY NEWYDD, PUNCTESTON, PEMBROKESHIRE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

SUMMARY

A planning application was submitted to Pembrokeshire County Council, for the erection of a dwelling on land north of Ty Newydd, Puncteston, Pembrokeshire (Planning Ref: 11/0405/PA; NGR SN00742975). Due to the potential for archaeological remains to be present within the development area, the archaeological advisors to the local Planning Authority, Dyfed Archaeological Trust - Development Management, recommended that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development. Mr M. W. Wren commissioned DAT Archaeological Services to undertake the watching brief.

The watching brief was undertaken on the 11th November 2016 during ground clearance across the development plot and deeper excavations for the foundation trenches. The watching brief indicated that the majority of the site had been levelled in the past and comprised a layer of overburden overlying a layer of hardstanding, beneath which stood undisturbed natural ground. The groundworks were carried out using a 360° excavator fitted with a flat bladed bucket for the initial clearance and a toothed bucket for the deeper excavations.

Apart from where it was disturbed by the excavation of foundation trenches, the hardstanding was left in situ. The natural drift geology exposed in section during the excavation of the foundation trenches made it possible to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the development area.

Although no significant archaeological remains were revealed within the development area, there is still a 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 Mr M. W. Wren to provide an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at the development site on land north of Ty Newydd, Puncteston, Pembrokeshire (NGR SN00742975, Figures 1 and 2). The proposals are for the construction of a new dwelling on the development plot.
- 1.1.2 The requirement for the watching brief was placed on the development as a condition on planning permission (11/0405/PA) following advice from the archaeological advisor's to the planning authority, Dyfed Archaeological Trust - Development Management (DAT-DM). 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 Due to the proximity of known sites of archaeological significance dating from the Bronze Age through to the post-medieval period and the location of the development site in the core of the village, the archaeological advisors to the planning authority (DAT-DM) considered there was potential for associated archaeological deposits to be disturbed, damaged or destroyed during groundworks for the development and a watching brief condition was attached to the planning decision.
- 1.1.4 The watching brief was undertaken on 11th November 2016.

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 the proposed construction of a single dwelling on land north of Ty Newydd, Puncteston, Pembrokeshire 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 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 Puncteston within the red boundary

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 scale Landranger Map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office,
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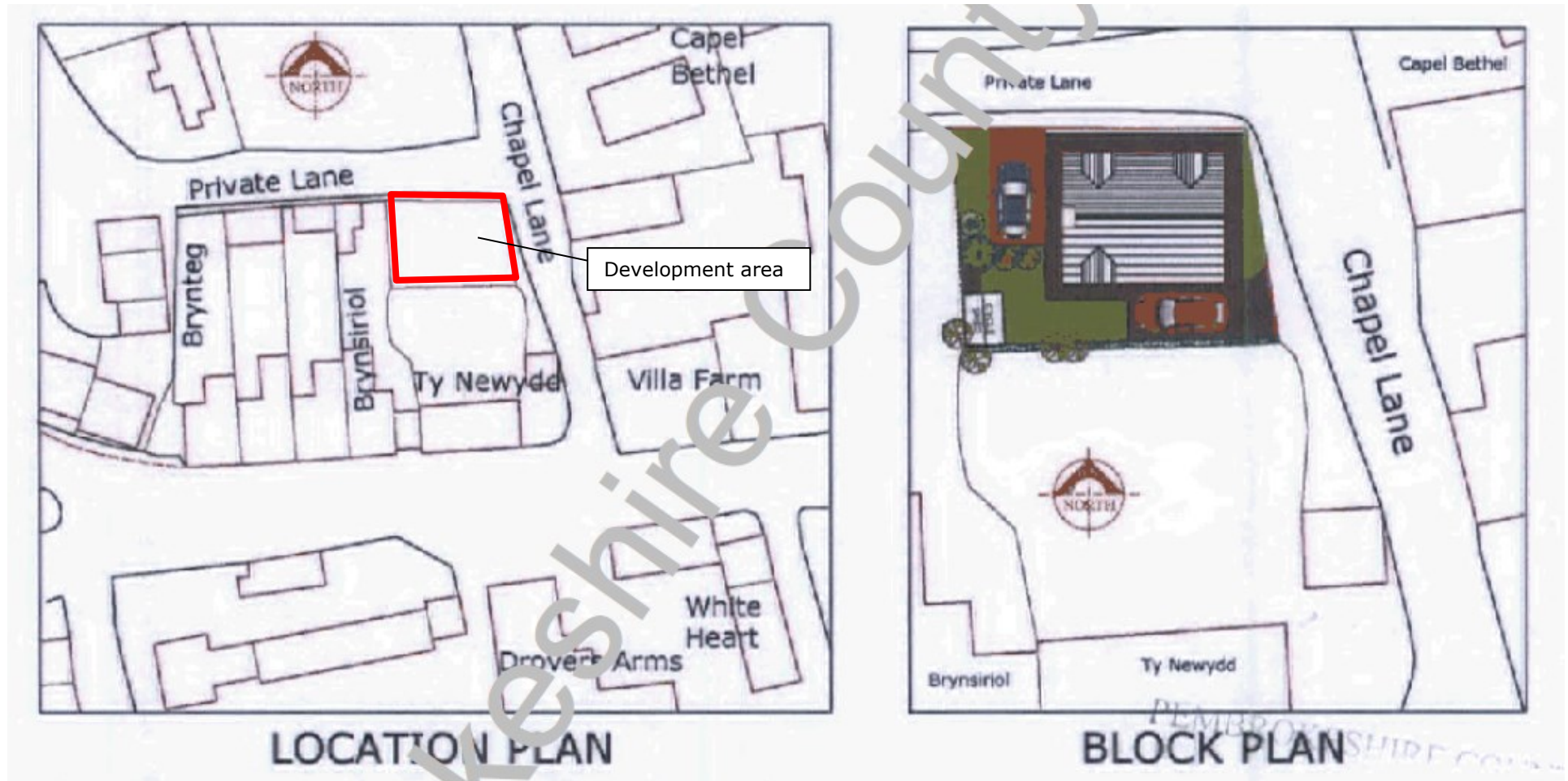


Figure 2: Location Plan and Block Plan of the development site and proposals as taken from the Design and Access Statement included in the planning information submitted to Pembrokeshire County Council

2. THE SITE

2.1 Location and Topography

- 2.1.1 The site is located in the centre of Puncteston (Figure 2) on a plot of land 20m north of the Grade II Listed building Ty Newydd (PRN 59756), its eastern side adjacent to Chapel Lane. A private lane bounds its northern side, a stone and breeze block wall its western side and a hedgebank its southern side. The site measures approximately 14m by 9.5m and has been previously levelled, possibly as a carpark for the nearby chapel, Capel Bethel (PRN 18217) situated 20m NE of the site.
- 2.1.2 The site area is relatively level, lying just below the 160m contour. Along the western edge of the site and along the centre of the lane to the north of the site (Photo 2), the infilled trench of a diverted sewage pipe was observed. The former, disused pipe lay in situ at the southern edge of the site.
- 2.1.3 The bedrock is Penmaen Dewi Shale Formation - Mudstone (based on information from the British Geological Survey (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>)).

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 2.2.1 A search of the Regional Historic Environment Record did not locate any site within the development area. However a study of the 1842 tithe map (Figure 3) shows part of a building standing within the plot, which, when the First edition OS map is published in 1889, is no longer recorded. The apportionment accompanying the tithe map shows the plot to be surrounded by, (190) 'cottage and garden', this is Ty Newydd; (191) 'homestead' and (192) 'homestead'. Interestingly, the stone and breeze-block wall which borders the west side of the plot contains a very large stone which might be a relic of the former building (Photo 1).
- 2.2.2 The Regional Historic Environment Record database revealed that a total of thirteen sites of archaeological and historic interest are located within a c.200m radius centred on the development. These are listed in Table 2 and shown in Figure 4.
- 2.2.3 Two of the recorded sites are scheduled ancient monuments. Castell Mael (SAM PE232, PRN 1276) lies approximately 180m to the east of the site; an oval enclosure measuring 84m by 58m surrounded by a double rampart. There is some uncertainty whether Castell Mael is an Iron Age Fort or a medieval earthwork castle or possibly both. Parc Maen standing stone (SAM PE514, PRN 1287), a Bronze Age monument, lies 130m to the west of the site.
- 2.2.4 Two of the records are Grade II Listed Buildings; The White Hart Cottage (PRN 59757) and the property directly to the south of the development site, Ty Newydd (PRN 59756).
- 2.2.5 Of the remaining sites three relate to post-medieval religious buildings in the village: the nearby Capel Bethel (PRN 18217); Capel Smyrna (PRN 18214) and St Mary's Church (PRN 15265), which was originally a medieval building (PRN 12570) but was entirely rebuilt in the early 19th century. An early medieval inscribed stone, the Cuniscus Stone (PRN 1288) was recorded on the southern side of the church in the 17th century, but its present location is unknown.

PRN	Site name	Summary	Period	NGR
1276	Castell Mael	Promontory fort/ Motte. Some uncertainty whether Castell Mael is an Iron Age defended enclosure or a medieval earthwork castle or both. It occupies an inland promontory 150m above sea level. To the north, east and south the land slopes steeply down to streams 20m below. Scheduled Ancient Monument PE232	Medieval Iron Age	SN 00972875
1287	Parc Maen Llwyd Standing stone	A fine standing stone which is 2.5m high. Located in the back garden of a house, hidden behind some shrubs. Scheduled Ancient Monument PE514	Bronze Age;	SN 00622979
1288	Cuniscus Stone Inscribed stone	Lost Group I ECM (Latin inscribed stone), of probable 6 th century date. It was recorded in 1698 when it was 'pitched on end the south side of (Puncteston parish) church' (ibid). This is the only record of the stone.	Early Medieval	SN 00852976
7822	Cas Mal cottage	Cottage used as storage shed in 1977	Post-Medieval	SN 00932977
12570	Puncteston Parish Church; St Mary's	Medieval parish church, entirely rebuilt in early 19 th century as post-medieval (PRN 15265). It was not listed in the Taxatio of 1291 and may be later foundation, but was in existence in 1326. It occupies a square churchyard.	Medieval	SN 00852976
13959	Puncteston Common	Common land	Medieval, Post-Medieval	SN 008298
15265	St Mary's Church	Church	Post-Medieval	SN 08852973
18214	Capel Smyrna	Chapel	Post-Medieval	SN 00672975
18217	Capel Bethel	Chapel	Post-Medieval	SN 00782977
59756	Ty Newydd Cottage	Cottage, painted rubble stone with asbestos sheet roof and end stacks. Square rubble stone left end stack, smaller rendered brick right end stack. One storey, double fronted, offset to right, with hornless 4-pane small sash each side of board door. Slate sills. Lower addition to left with slate roof, small square window to centre and plank door to extreme right, against corner of house. Small square loft light on right end wall. Grade II Listed Building Ref No 25867	Post-Medieval	SN 0075129731
59757	White Hart Cottage	Cottage, white painted rubble stone with asbestos sheet roof. Single-storey with very large external chimney breast to left end with red brick stack and rendered brick right	Post-Medieval	SN 0077429716

		end stack. Double fronted with small horned plate glass sash each side of board door with glass panel. Timber lintels. Left end wall has chimney breast projecting and small C20 blockwork lean-to in rebated angle. Chimney breast has 2 parallel projecting stones. Painted rubble eaves. C20 window in rear wall. Grade II Listed Building Ref No 25868		
13960	Castell Mael Graig	Common land	Medieval, Post-Medieval	SN 009297
12571	Pen-y-Graig	Water Mill	Medieval	SN 008296

Table 2: Archaeological and Historical Sites recorded on the Regional Historic Environment Record within 200m of the centre of the proposed development; shown in Figure 4.

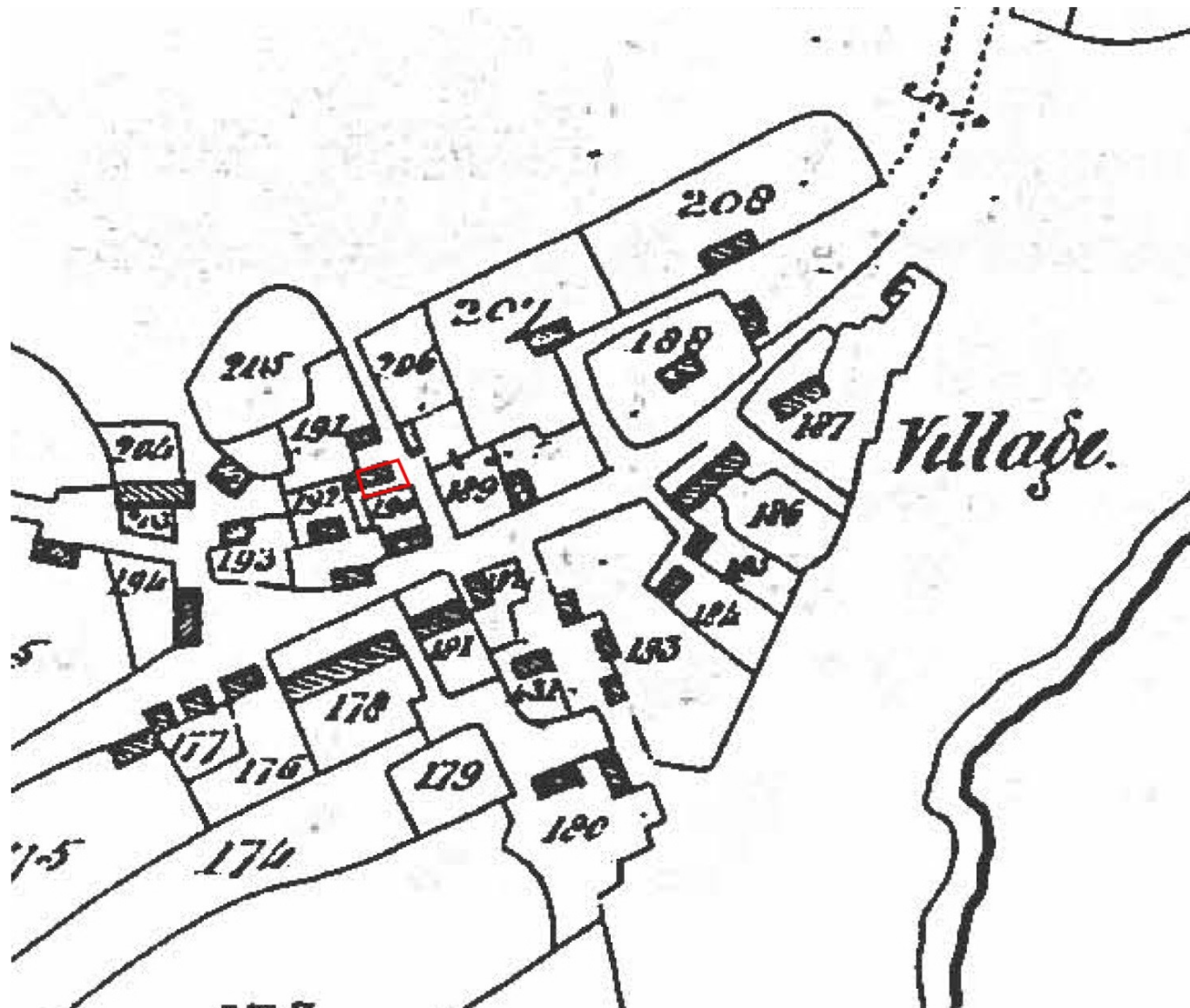


Figure 3: Extract from the 1842 Puncheston Parish Tithe map. Note building within development area (in red)

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3. WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork

- 3.1.1 A watching brief was undertaken during initial groundworks at the site which had the potential to expose, damage or destroy underlying archaeological remains.
- 3.1.2 Excavation work was undertaken by a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a toothless bucket for the initial site clearance. Foundation trenches were excavated with a toothed bucket. All groundworks with a 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.

3.2 Timetabling of Fieldwork

- 3.2.1 The watching brief took place over one day on the 11th of November 2016.

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 2007), 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

- 4.1 The site was visited on 11th November 2016. The initial removal of dumped soil and the subsequent excavation of the foundation trenches were observed.



Photo 1: View SW towards boundary wall on west side of site. Note large stone in wall to the right of the barrow. Remains of former building seen on tithe map?



Photo 2: View west across site before commencement of ground works. Note in-filled trench for diverted sewage pipe in lane.

- 4.2 The initial clearing of the site by scraping, using a toothless bucket, revealed a hard, level surface. Subsequent trowelling in other parts of the site and the evidence obtained later from the sections of the foundation trenches indicated that this surface seemed to cover the majority of the development plot (Photos 3 and 4).
- 4.3 The footprint for the dwelling was situated 4.5m east of the west wall, and 2m north of the south hedge-bank. The external measurements of the foundation trenches were approximately 7.5m by 6m. Each trench was approximately 90cms deep (Photos 7-10).
- 4.4 The foundation trench sections revealed a similar soil column throughout (Photos 5 and 6). This comprised a hard, compact layer of grey, clay-silt with a large percentage of sharp shale fragments. This layer ranged in depth from 0.3m to 0.4m throughout the excavated trenches.



Photo 3: View west showing machine cleared and trowelled area of hard, level surface. 1m scale

- 4.5 Below this layer stood the natural ground. This consisted of yellow-brown and grey bands of clay-silt containing a large amount of shale fragments. This extended to the bottom of the trenches.
- 4.6 At the east end of the southern trench a small length of the disused sewage pipe was observed in section, together with its trench fill.



Photo 4: View west; close-up of trowelled hard, level surface. 0.25m scale

- 4.7 No evidence for foundation trenches or walls associated with the building shown in the 1842 tithe map was observed either in plan or in section.
- 4.8 No features, finds or deposits of archaeological significance were observed during the watching brief.



Photo 5: View west of east facing section of foundation trench. 1m scale

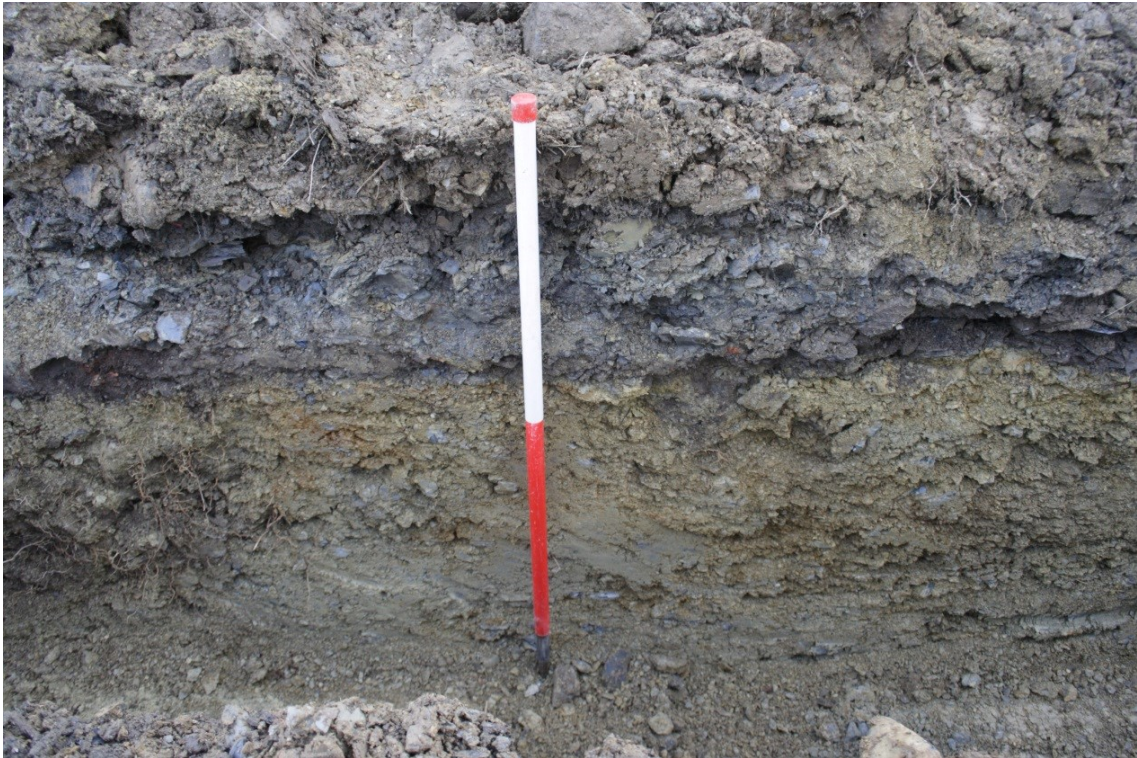


Photo 6: View south of north facing section of foundation trench. 1m scale



Photo 7: View east during excavation of northern foundation trench. 1m scale



Photo 8: View NE across site towards Capel Bethel. 1m scale



Photo 9: View west across site showing completed foundation trenches. 1m scale



Photo 10: View SE across site showing completed foundation trenches. 1m scale

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 A watching brief was carried out during groundworks associated with the development of one house plot on land north of Ty Newydd, Puncteston, Pembrokeshire. The development site lies in an area with an identified potential for archaeological remains to be present. Thus a condition was placed on planning permission for the development requiring an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken during groundworks.
- 5.2 The main groundworks for the project involved ground clearance across the site area with deeper areas of excavation for the foundation trenches. The ground was scraped using a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a flat bladed bucket. The trenches were excavated using a toothed bucket.
- 5.3 The site was devoid of topsoil or subsoil and it was evident that the area had been levelled in the past.
- 5.4 A hard, level compact layer, a probable hardstanding, up to 0.4m thick lay above natural subsoil. The hardstanding comprised compacted grey clay-silt with a large percentage of sharp, shale fragments. This might have been laid to construct a carpark; possibly associated with the chapel (Capel Bethel), situated 20m NE of the site.
- 5.5 No evidence for the building shown on the 1842 tithe map was revealed. If the structure did extend into the site, it is possible that subsequent levelling across the site has destroyed any walls and trenches associated with the building. Also, the large stone in the perimeter wall is higher than the levelled ground, and if this stone denotes the base of the building then any evidence for the existence of the structure would certainly have been removed.
- 5.6 No dating evidence for the southern hedgebank was recovered. The south side of the plot is very likely to have been defined before the 1800s (the bounded area being shown on early Ordnance Survey maps and the tithe map). Hedge banks themselves are a relatively common feature and would be of low archaeological significance.
- 5.7 No further significant archaeological deposits were identified within the development site. It is still possible that significant archaeological remains could still lie within the vicinity of the development.

6. SOURCES

Published

Brown, D H, 2011. *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*. Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists.

Database

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

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

Cof Cymru - National Historic Assets of Wales
<http://cadw.gov.wales/historicenvironment/recordsv1/cof-cymru/?lang=en>

Online resources

British Geological Survey:
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

Map

Puncteston Parish Tithe Map & Apportionment 1842

1st edition, Pembrokeshire, 1:25000" Ordnance Survey, 1889

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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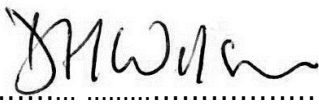
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Rhagfyr 2106
December 2016

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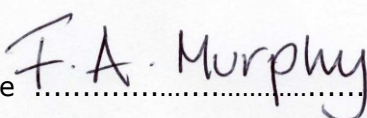
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Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi ei gael yn gywir a derbyn sêl bendith
This report has been checked and approved by

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: 01/12/2016

*Yn unol â'n nôd i roddi gwasanaeth o ansawdd uchel, croesawn unrhyw sylwadau
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