LLWYN, LLANFAIR ROAD, LAMPETER, CEREDIGION: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF





Prepared by DAT Archaeological Services For: Aled Vaughan Jones, Llwyn Farm





DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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> Mawrth2018 March 2018

LLWYN, LLANFAIR ROAD, LAMPETER, CEREDIGION: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Gan / By

James Meek

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Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf Corner House, 6 Stryd Caerfyrddin, Llandeilo, Sir Gaerfyrddin SA19 6AE Ffon: Ymholiadau Cyffredinol 01558 823121 Adran Rheoli Treftadaeth 01558 823131 Ebost: <u>info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk</u> Gwefan: www.archaeolegdyfed.org.uk Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited Corner House, 6 Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AE Tel: General Enquiries 01558 823121 Heritage Management Section 01558 823131 Email: <u>info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk</u> Website: www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk

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CONTENTS

	SUM	MARY	1
1	INTRODUCTION		2
	1.1	Project Commission	2
	1.2	Scope of the Project	3
	1.3	Report Outline	3
	1.4	Illustrations	3
	1.5	Timeline	4
2	THE SITE		
	2.1	Location	6
	2.2	Archaeological and Historical Background	6
3	WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY		9
	3.1	Fieldwork	9
	3.2	Timetabling of Fieldwork	9
	3.3	Post-Fieldwork Reporting and Archiving	9
4	WAT	CHING BRIEF RESULTS (Figure 4)	4
5	CON	CLUSIONS	16

TABLES

Table 1:	Archaeological and Historical Timeline for Wales	3
Table 2:	Historic Environment Record entries within 500m of the proposed agricultural building at Llwyn Farm	7
FIGURES		
Figure 1:	Site location of proposed development based upon the Ordnance Survey	4
Figure 2:	Development proposals plan showing footprint of proposed new agricultural building at Llwyn Farm	5
Figure 3:	Map showing known archaeological sites recorded on the Dyfed Historic Environment Record within 500m of the proposed development	8
Figure 4:	Watching brief results overlaid on development proposals plan showing footprint of proposed new agricultural building at Llwyn Farm	15

PHOTOS

Photo 1:	View southwest across site area towards Llwyn Farm during site visit 27.10.18	4
Photo 2:	Start of topsoil strip	10
Photo 3:	View southwest across western side of site area showing thin topsoil and remnants of stone levelling layer for former silage clamp	11
Photo 4:	View north across eastern side of site area	11
Photo 5:	View southwest across eastern side of site area	12
Photo 6:	View northeast across site area showing change from former silage clamp area and stone in foreground to natural sands and gravels beyond	12
Photo 7:	View of northeastern part of site showing small area of raised gravels in trench edge	13
Photo 8:	View of northeastern part of site showing small area of raised gravels in trench edge.	14

LLWYN, LLANFAIR ROAD, LAMPETER, CEREDIGION:

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

SUMMARY

DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Aled Vaughan-Jones of Llwyn Farm to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground works associated with the construction of a proposed agricultural building at Llwyn Farm, Llanfair Road, Lampeter, Ceredigion.

The development site lies directly south of Llanfair Road which is thought to follow the line of a Roman road leading northeast from Carmarthen, through Lampeter and on towards Bremia Roman Fort, south of Tregaron. The line of the Roman road has been previously confirmed through cropmark evidence to the northeast and southwest but runs below the existing road line along the northern edge of this development site.

As a consequence of this an initial pre-determination evaluation was requested. Following additional research and a site visit it was apparent that the development area had previously been the site of a silage clamp and had been subject to previous groundworks. It was then agreed that an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for the development was an appropriate method of archaeological mitigation to be implemented following planning permission.

It was evident that the majority of the western side of the footprint of the proposed agricultural building had been during groundworks for the former silage clamp. This had clearly disturbed the top of the natural ground surface and no archaeological remains were identified in this area. Potentially no archaeology was ever present or alternatively was removed by these previous groundworks.

The eastern side of the proposed building footprint was not disturbed by the silage clamp. The topsoil strip revealed the undisturbed natural sands and gravels. No archaeological remains were identified within this area excluding a small patch of gravels that lay very close to the existing ground surface on the northeastern edge of the site adjacent to the line of the Roman road. It is considered possible that these gravels were associated with the former Roman road, although this could not be confirmed during the watching brief. The potential road remains to the north of the trench will remain unaffected by the proposed works.

The southwestern end of the footprint of the proposed building had been significantly disturbed by the former silage clamp and by agricultural vehicle tracks over time. It was agreed that the watching brief did not have to observe this area being stripped.

No significant archaeological remains were present within the footprint of the proposed new agricultural building at Llwyn Farm. The potential for archaeological remains of the Roman road to be present adjacent to the existing road line still remains. The site area lies on a gravel terrace above the Afon Teifi, a generally favoured location for archaeological activity and there is still a potential for significant remains to exist in the vicinity of the new agricultural building.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Commission

- 1.1.1 DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Aled Vaughan-Jones to undertake a watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of a new agricultural building on land at Llwyn, Llanfair Road, Lampeter (SN 6015 4934; Figures 1 & 2).
- 1.1.2 Due to the proposed agricultural building lying adjacent to the known line of the Roman road leading northeast from Lampeter, a requirement for an archaeological evaluation, pre-determination of the planning application (Planning Application No. A170843) was requested by the archaeological advisors to the planning authority (Development Management – Dyfed Archaeological Trust). This was placed on the application due to it being located directly adjacent to the line of a known Roman road.
- 1.1.3 The advice letter from the archaeological advisor (dated 20th September 2017 to Ceredigion County Council) states the following Government policy to justify this decision. The first section is taken from *Planning Policy* WALES Edition 9, Chapter 6, section 6.5.5 which makes it clear that "The conservation of archaeological remains is a material consideration in determining a planning application, whether those remains are a scheduled monument or not. Where nationally important archaeological remains, whether scheduled or not, and their settings are likely to be affected by proposed development, there should be a presumption in favour of their physical protection in situ. It will only be in exceptional circumstances that planning permission will be granted if development would result in an adverse impact on a scheduled monument (or an archaeological site shown to be of national importance) or has a significantly damaging effect upon its setting. In cases involving less significant archaeological remains, local planning authorities will need to weigh the relative importance of the archaeological remains and their settings against other factors, including the need for the proposed development".

Section 4.8 of TAN 24 also states "The need for a desk-based assessment, and field evaluation where appropriate, should be discussed with the local planning authority prior to submission of an application, and where required the results of these studies should be submitted as part of the planning application. Failure to provide sufficient archaeological information of the appropriate standard may be a valid reason for the local planning authority to refuse planning permission".

- 1.1.4 Based on information gathered during the preparation of the Written Scheme of Investigation and from a site visit, it was noted that the proposed development area had been subject to a substantial amount of previous ground disturbance associated with a former silage clamp that stood on the majority of the site area. The area had been subject to some previous levelling and had then been covered with stone to create a level surface of the clamp resulting in disturbance such that any archaeological remains that may have been present would have been exposed, damaged or destroyed at that time. The archaeological potential was thus considered quite limited and it was agreed with Development Management Dyfed Archaeological Trust that an archaeological watching brief undertaken during groundworks for the development would be the most appropriate archaeological mitigation for the development site.
- 1.1.5 This report details the results of the watching brief which has successfully recorded the archaeology of the development area.

1.2 Scope of the Project

- 1.2.1 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) document for a watching brief was prepared by DAT Archaeological Services prior to the commencement of the works which was approved by Dyfed Archaeological Trust – Development Management prior to the works commencing. The WSI outlined methodologies for:
 - Provision of a written scheme of investigation to outline the methodology for the intrusive trial trench evaluation which DAT Archaeological Services will undertake (this document);
 - To establish the state of preservation, character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits identified;
 - To use the information to design a future mitigation at the site which will enable any identified remains to be appropriately investigated and recorded where they will be affected by the proposed development;
 - Production of a report and an archive of the results.
 - 1.2.2 The overall work was summarised as: Archaeological attendance during ground works associated the construction of a new agricultural building at Llwyn Farm, Llanfair Road, Lampeter, Ceredigion which could potentially 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 provides a summary and discussion of the archaeological watching brief and its results.

1.4 Illustrations

1.5.1 Printed map extracts are not necessarily reproduced to their original scale. On maps, north is towards the top of the page unless otherwise indicated.

1.5 Timeline

The following timeline (Table 1) is used within this report to give date ranges for the various archaeological periods that may be mentioned within the text.

Period	Approximate date	
Palaeolithic -	<i>c</i> .450,000 – 10,000 BC	
Mesolithic –	<i>c</i> . 10,000 – 4400 BC	Pre
Neolithic –	<i>c</i> .4400 – 2300 BC	hist
Bronze Age –	<i>c</i> .2300 – 700 BC	Prehistoric
Iron Age –	<i>c</i> .700 BC – AD 43	0
Roman (Romano-British) Period –	AD 43 – <i>c.</i> AD 410	
Post-Roman / Early Medieval Period -	<i>c</i> . AD 410 – AD 1086	_
Medieval Period –	1086 - 1536	Hist
Post-Medieval Period ¹ –	1536 - 1750	Historic
Industrial Period –	1750 - 1899	n
Modern –	20th 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

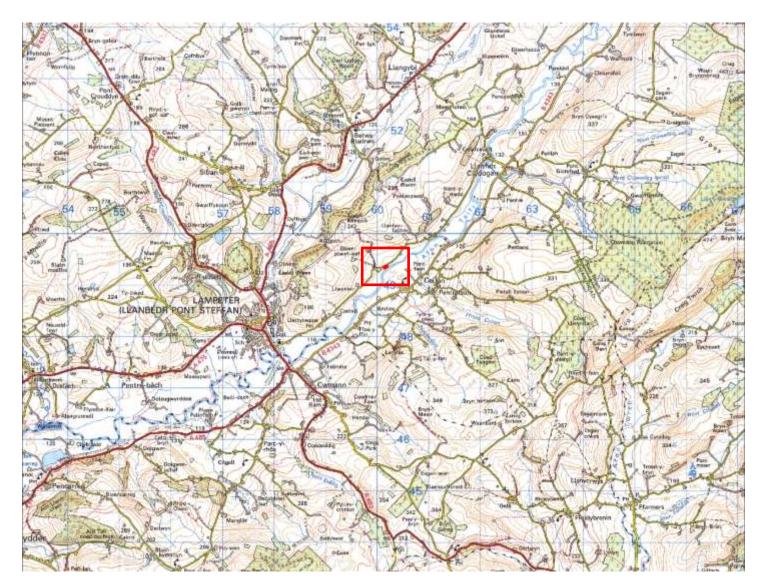


Figure 1: Site location of proposed development based upon the Ordnance Survey. Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 scale Map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd., Corner House, 6 Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF.Licence No 100020930.

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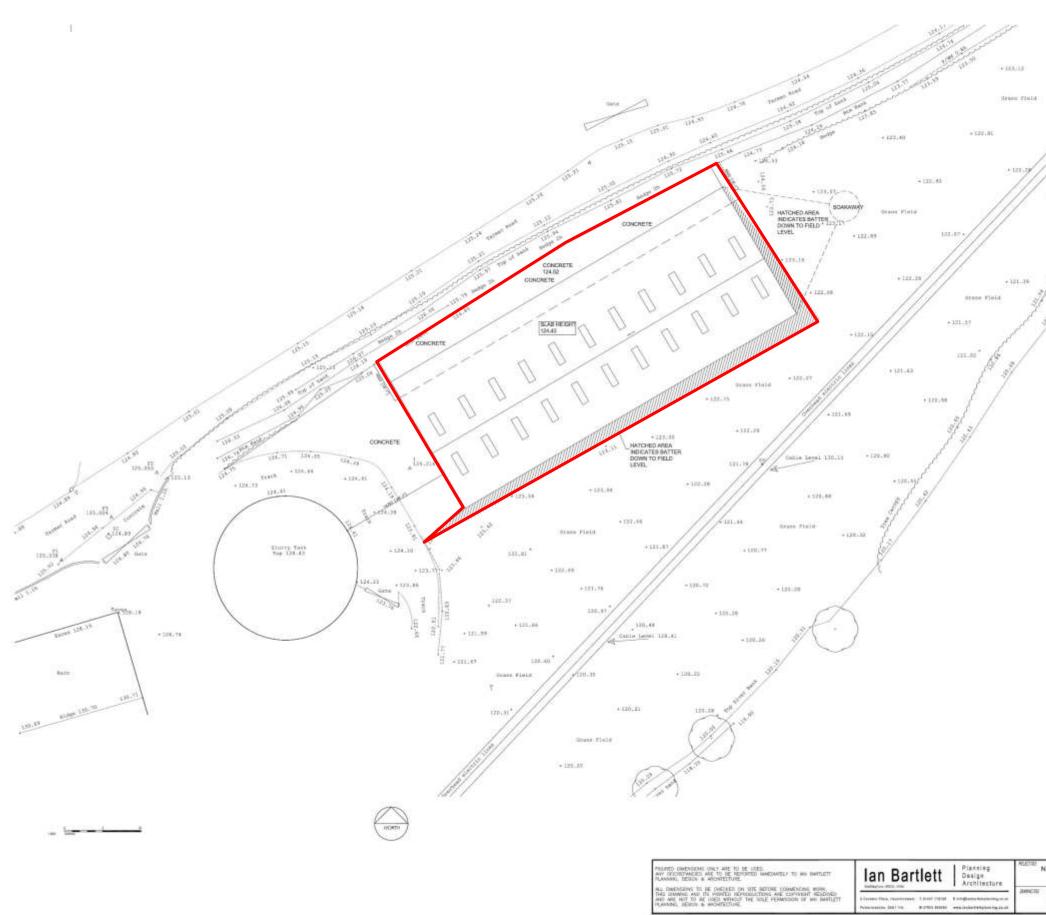


Figure 2: Development proposals plan showing footprint of proposed new agricultural building (red outline) at Llwyn Farm, Llanfiar Road, Lampeter (supplied by client)

EW CATTLE SHED AT LLWYN FARM, LAMPETER	RHE Literation At	20080340 +480323
PROPOSED SITE LAYOUT	JAE AUG. DETP	MER

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2 THE SITE

2.1 Location

- 2.1.1 Llwyn Farm is located on the southern side of Llanfair Road midway between Lampeter to the west and Llanfair Clydogau to the east in Ceredigion (SN 6015 4934). It lies on a river terrace above the Afon Teifi.
- 2.1.2 The site area itself sloped down quite steeply from Llanfair Road to a relatively level area within which the proposed agricultural building will be placed. The land then drops down to the south onto a further gravel terrace above the Afon Teifi. A general slight drop in ground level was also noticed to the west towards the existing farm buildings of Llwyn Farm.
- 2.1.3 The area was previously used for storage, farm machinery and equipment (Photo 1), with piles of hardcore and rubble which was mostly moved during the watching brief (for use as a base for the new building).



Photo 1: View southwest across site area towards Llwyn Farm during site visit 27.10.18

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 2.2.1 The information described below is taken from the Regional Historic Environment Record (HER) held by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust and includes a summary of known archaeological and historical sites of importance nearby (Figure 3 and Table 2).
- 2.2.2 The HER lists seven known sites of archaeological interest within 500m of the proposed development area (Figure 3). These include a number of post-medieval buildings of historical interest: Tre-Bannau farmhouse to the east near Cellan (Primary Record Number (PRN) 9485); Lodge Cottage to the west (PRN 17194); and Blaenplwyf Uchaf cottage located to the northwest of the site (PRN 44028).

- 2.2.3 Historic farmsteads are also recorded at Trebrennau (Tre-Bannua) to the east (PRN 106886) and at Blaenplwyf Uchaf to the northwest.
- 2.2.4 Of most significance to the development site are two records relating to a Roman road line leading northeast from Carmarthen, through Lampeter and on towards Bremia Roman Fort, south of Tregaron. The line of the Roman road has been previously confirmed through cropmark evidence to the northeast (PRN 51948) and southwest (PRN 33969) but runs below the existing road line along the northern edge of this development site. Figure 3 shows the road line running as a blue and red line, where blue represents the projected road line and red the areas which have been confirmed through cropmark evidence.

HER PRN	Site Name	Description	Period	NGR
9485	Tre-Bannau	The farmhouse; part of a complex of buildings at Tre-Bannau	Post- medieval	SN60634927
17194	Lodge Cottage	Lodge	Post- medieval	SN59944934
33969	Llwynieir Roman road	A segment of the Roman road RR69d between Carmarthen and Llanfair Clydogau (PRN 3382) identified as a cropmark in pasture from aerial photographs. The line of the Roman road runs immediately to the north of the modern road at this point.	Roman	SN59784906
44028	Blaenplwyf Uchaf	Cottage identified from OS mapping	Post- medieval	SN59820496 40
51948	Llanfair House – Roman road	A segment of the Roman road RR69d between SN60394953 and SN60544964 revealed as a cropmark in fields to the south of the modern road line in the field to the northeast of the cropmark the line of the Roman road is continued in a field boundary.	Roman	SN60474958
106886	Trebrennau	Farmstead recorded in 2014 by Cambrian Mountains Initiative	Post- medieval	SN60604928
106891	Blaen-Plwyf- Uchaf	Farmstead recorded in 2014 by Cambrian Mountains Initiative	Post- medieval	SN59834963

Table 2: Historic Environment Record entries within 500m of the proposed agricultural building at Llwyn Farm, Llanfair Road, Lampeter, Ceredigion

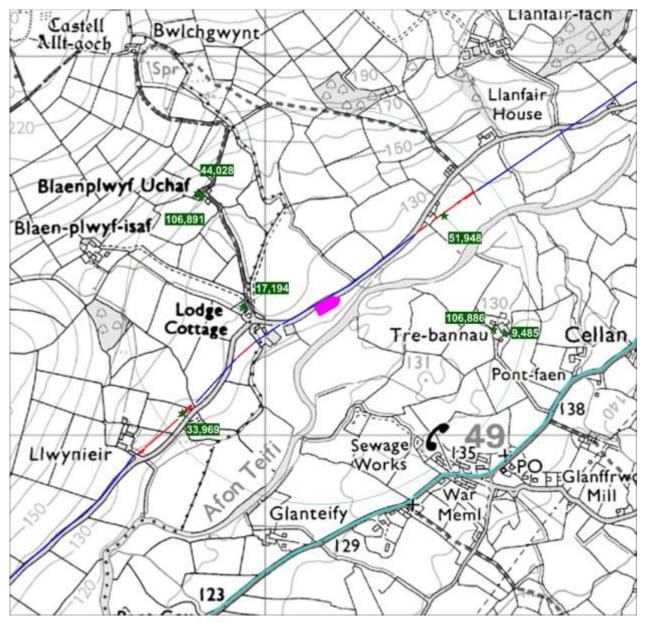


Figure 3: Map showing known archaeological sites recorded on the Dyfed Historic Environment Record within 500m of the proposed development (magenta area).

The Roman road is shown as a blue line where it is projected and red where it has been confirmed by cropmark evidence

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3 WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork

- 3.1.1 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014).
- 3.1.2 A written scheme of investigation was prepared by DAT Archaeological Services detailing the proposed archaeological works, which was approved by Dyfed Archaeological Trust – Development Management in their capacity as advisors to the local planning authority prior to the works commencing.
- 3.1.3 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. A written, drawn and photographic record was maintained throughout this watching brief. All contexts encountered during this watching brief were recorded.
- 3.1.4 The machining was undertaken using a 13 ton 360 excavator fitted with a flat bladed bucket for topsoil stripping.

3.2 Timetabling of Fieldwork

3.2.1 The watching brief took place on 19th March 2018 during fine weather conditions.

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 WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS (Figure 4)

- 4.1 A single visit to the site was required to observe groundworks, undertaken during topsoil stripping of the footprint of the proposed new agricultural building.
- 4.2 A 13 ton 360 machine (Daewoo 130 LC-V; Photo 2) was used with a toothless ditching bucket to remove topsoil across the site area, which included the footprint of the proposed agricultural shed with an additional *c*.2m strip around its edges.



Photo 2: Start of topsoil strip

- 4.3 The topsoil comprised a reddish brown to dark brown clayey sand silt soil, with common small gravels and pebbles. The topsoil was generally thicker towards the northern edge of the site and at its eastern end, with a maximum depth of 0.30m. Towards the south it was around 0.15m. On the western side of the site it was even shallower in places.
- 4.4 It was known that the majority of the site area, excluding the eastern end, had previously been used as a silage clamp. It was thought likely that the topsoil had been removed before this was located here and it was evident that an imported layer of stones had been laid down (Photo 3). In this area topsoil was patchy and thin.



Photo 3: View southwest across western side of site area showing thin topsoil and remnants of stone levelling layer for former silage clamp

4.5 At the eastern end of the site clear areas of natural sands and gravels were exposed (Photos 4, 5 & 6). These ranged from mid brown or brown fine sandy silts with mineralisation mottles; finer gravels and small pebbles in a brown sand clay silt matrix; larger gravels and pebbles in a greyer silt sand matrix; orange or reddish brown sands and gravels. These were visible in irregular bands across the site. Cleaning and partial excavation confirmed that they were of natural origin.



Photo 4: View north across eastern side of site area



Photo 5: View southwest across eastern side of site area



Photo 6: View northeast across site area shoing change from former silage clamp area and stone in foreground to natural sands and gravels beyond (blue line)

4.6 Roughly 20m from the eastern end of the site was a wide patch of fine silts with some areas containing flecks of charcoal. The charcoal was located in a very dull brown colour silt. Hand cleaning and excavation indicated that these formed a layer within the wider natural sands and gravels and it is assumed that the charcoal derives from elsewhere and had been washed in to the river deposits.

- 4.7 Excavation along the northern edge of the site indicated that the layer of hardcore did not extend this far and again natural sands and gravels were exposed. At 1m in from the eastern end, a patch of gravels was exposed within 0.10m of the ground surface (Photos 7 & 8).
- 4.8 It was considered possible that this could represent the remains of part of the Roman road due to the gravels being of slightly different character to those around and so the area was cleaned and recorded. The patch ran for around 1.5m in length and 0.5m in width. It did merge with surrounding gravel layers to the south and west and so is probably most likely of natural origin. The potential that this could form the edge of the Roman road or an area of slumping from it could not be discounted, although is probably unlikely based on the surrounding natural sands and gravels.
- 4.9 Following confirmation with Dyfed Archaeological Trust Development Management it was agreed that the watching brief did not need to continue on the very southwestern part of the proposed agricultural building, where it lay within the silage clamp and had evidently been significantly disturbed by farm vehicle activity.



Photo 7: View of northeastern part of site showing small area of raised gravels in trench edge.



Photo 8: View of northeastern part of site showing small area of raised gravels in trench edge. Red line shows top of gravels, blue line shows base of trench

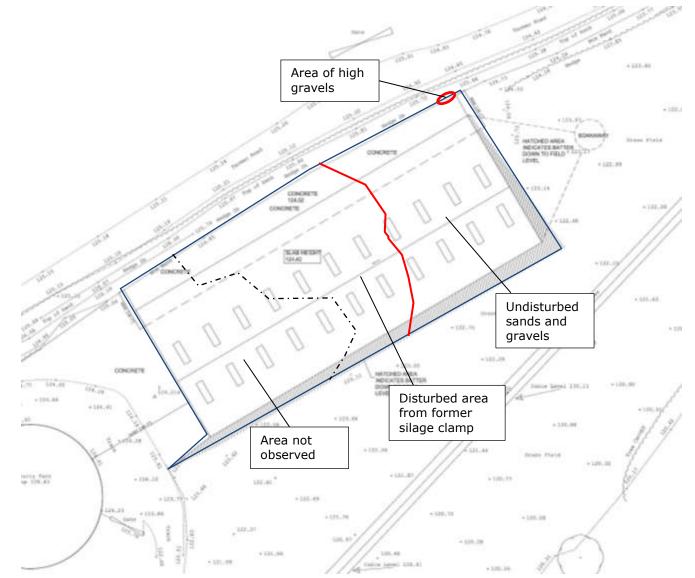


Figure 4 Watching brief results overlaid on development proposals plan showing footprint of proposed new agricultural building (blue outline) at Llwyn Farm, Llanfiar Road, Lampeter (supplied by client)

DAT Archaeological Services

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 Results of the archaeological watching brief undertaken during groundworks for the proposed new agricultural building at Llwyn Farm, Llanfair Road, Lampeter have demonstrated that they did not impact upon any significant archaeological remains or deposits.
- 5.2 It was evident that the majority of the western side of the footprint of the proposed agricultural building had been previously disturbed through topsoil stripping and the laying of stone for the base of the former silage clamp that was located in the area. This had clearly disturbed the top of the natural ground surface and no archaeological remains were identified in this area. Potentially no archaeology was ever present or alternatively was removed by these previous groundworks.
- 5.3 On the eastern side of the proposed building footprint was an area that remained undisturbed by the former silage clamp. Here a depth of topsoil was removed onto a clear natural undisturbed sand and gravel natural subsoil. The area appeared to be undisturbed and thus the lack of archaeology is not due to previous disturbance but indicates a lack of archaeology within this specific area.
- 5.4 The possible area of gravels seen on the northeastern edge of the site area were tentatively suggested to represent gravels associated with the adjacent Roman road, which is thought to lie below Llanfair Road in this location. The gravels survived at a higher level than the surrounding natural sands and gravels, suggesting they may have been imported. The small area visible is such that this interpretation cannot be confirmed but does indicate the raised possibility of Roman road remains surviving below the existing hedge line and potentially the road line also. The potential road remains to the north of the trench will remain unaffected by the proposed works.
- 5.5 No evidence for Roman archaeology was found within the site area, excluding the very tentative interpretation of the gravel area on the northeastern edge of the site. No earlier or later remains of any significance were recorded. It is possible that remains may have existed within the area of the silage clamp but given the lack of any remains on the eastern side of the site and paucity of any finds of any significance being recovered, this is unlikely.
- 5.6 The site area does lie on a gravel terrace adjacent to the Afon Teifi and such locations often have a high potential for archaeological remains being present due to favourable ground conditions (well-draining and generally fertile). There is still a good possibility for archaeological remains to survive in the area beyond the limits of the proposed new building, although remains to the west will have been significantly disturbed by the existing Llwyn Farm and associated buildings. The location of Llwyn Farm may be one that has been exploited for millennia and the existing farm may be the latest of a long line of farms that have utilised the site.

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> Mawrth 2018 March 2018

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

JAMES MEEK

Swydd / Position: HEAD OF DAT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Llofnod / Signature

James Musle

Date 17/04/2018

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

FA Murphy

Date 17/04/2018

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.

