

**PLUM TREE HOUSE, LITTLE
NEWCASTLE, PEMBROKESHIRE:
PLANNING APPLICATION NO:
18/0622/PA
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**



Prepared by DAT Archaeological Services
For: Mr and Mrs Ormond



DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
(NGR SN 42729 01031)**

Gan / By

Hubert Wilson

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Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf
Corner House, 6 Stryd Caerfyrddin, Llandeilo, Sir
Gaerfyrddin SA19 6AF
Ffon: Ymholiadau Cyffredinol 01558 823121
Adran Rheoli Treftadaeth 01558 823131
Ebost: info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk
Gwefan: www.archaeolegdyfed.org.uk

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited
Corner House, 6 Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo,
Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF
Tel: General Enquiries 01558 823121
Heritage Management Section 01558 823131
Email: info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk
Website: www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk

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PLUM TREE HOUSE, LITTLE NEWCASTLE, PEMBROKESHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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SUMMARY

DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by the house owner to undertake a watching brief in March 2019 during ground works associated with the construction of a new extension to the existing property of Plum Tree House, Little Newcastle, Pembrokeshire (SM 9792 2895). The ground was found to be predominantly made-up ground comprising stone aggregate deposited in the recent past. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were found.

CRYNODEB

Comisiynwyd Gwasanaethau Archeolegol YAD gan berchennog y tŷ i ymgymryd â briff gwyllo ym mis Mawrth 2019 yn ystod gwaith tir yn gysylltiedig ag adeiladu estyniad newydd i eiddo presennol Plum Tree House, Casnewydd-bach, Sir Benfro (SM 9792 2895). Darganfuwyd bod y tir yn dir cyfunol yn bennaf, yn cynnwys agregau cerrig a adneuwyd yn y gorffennol diweddar. Ni ddarganfuwyd unrhyw nodweddion neu arteffactau archeolegol arwyddocaol.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Proposals and Commission

- 1.1.1 DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Mr and Mrs Ormond to provide an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of an extension to the existing property of Plum Tree House, Little Newcastle, Pembrokeshire – NGR SM 9792 2895 (Figures 1 and 2).
- 1.1.2 The proposed development is located at the centre of the medieval settlement of Little Newcastle and is within close proximity to the medieval parish church of St Peter (PRN 4570), a medieval grange or manor house (PRN 12784) and a 12th century motte (PRN 2415).
- 1.1.3 Due to the potential for medieval archaeological remains to be present within the boundary of the development site the archaeological advisors (Dyfed Archaeological Trust – Development Management (DAT-DM)) to the planning authority (Pembrokeshire County Council) recommended an archaeological watching brief be attached to planning permission for the development (Planning Application No. 18/0622/PA).

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 archaeological watching brief.
 - To monitor ground works in order 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 ground works.
 - To appropriately investigate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
 - 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 installation of a new extension at the property known as Plum Tree House, Little Newcastle, Pembrokeshire, which have the potential to expose, damage or destroy archaeological remains. Appropriate investigation and recording of any such remains will be undertaken if revealed. A report and archive of the results of the works will be prepared."*
- 1.2.3 The archaeological works were undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* and their codes of conduct (CIfA 2014).

1.3 Report Outline

- 1.3.1 This report describes the location of the development works along with its archaeological background, and provides a summary and discussion of the archaeological watching brief and its results.

1.4 Abbreviations

- 1.4.1 Sites recorded on the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR). 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

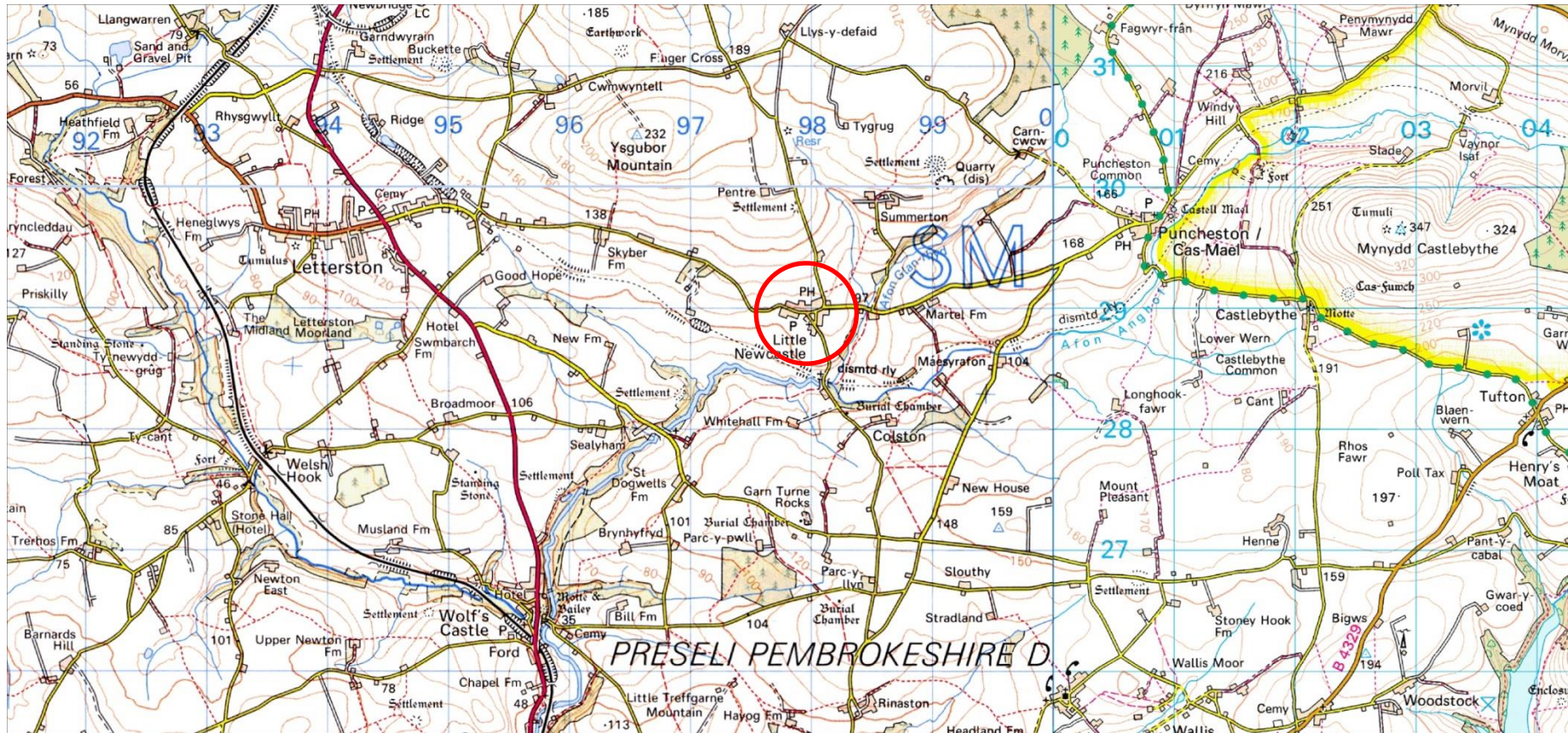


Figure 1: Location of Little Newcastle, Pembrokeshire (based on Ordnance Survey).

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 scale Landranger Map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright Dyfed Archaeological Trust, The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF. Licence No. 100020930

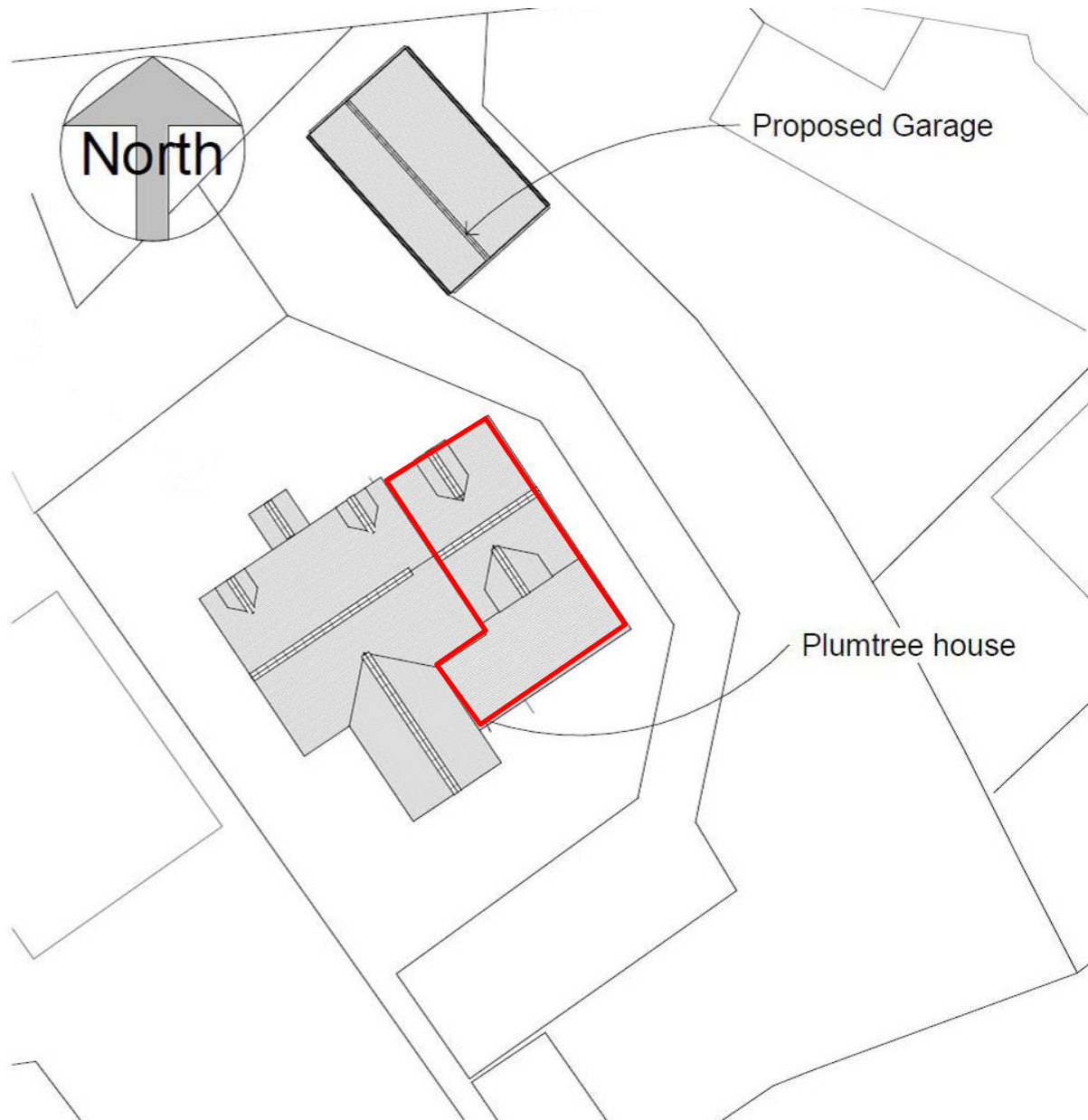


Figure 2: Development proposals plan showing Plum Tree House and extension (in red).
(plan supplied by Iain MacRae Chartered Surveyor)

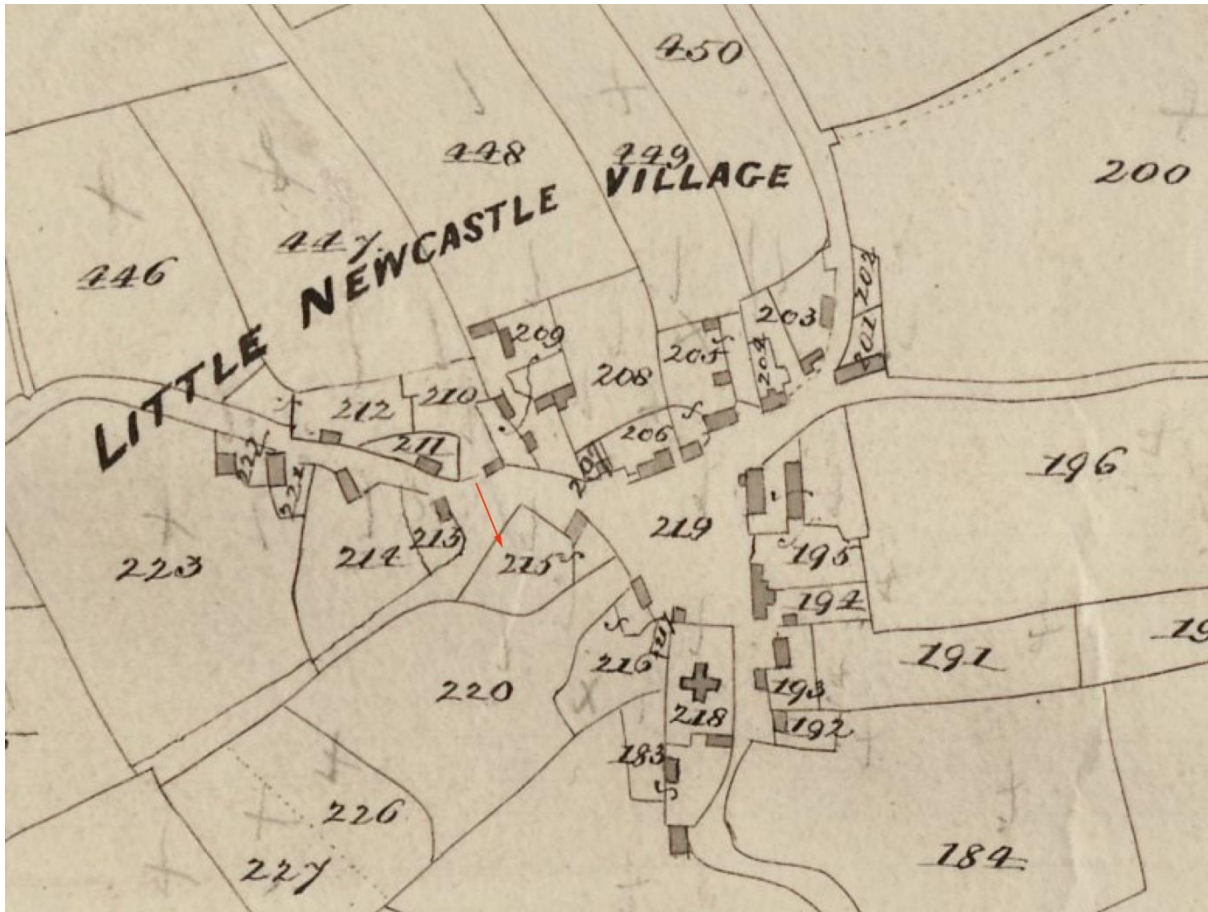


Figure 3: Extract of the Little Newcastle parish tithe map published in 1844 (red arrow points to approximate location of development)

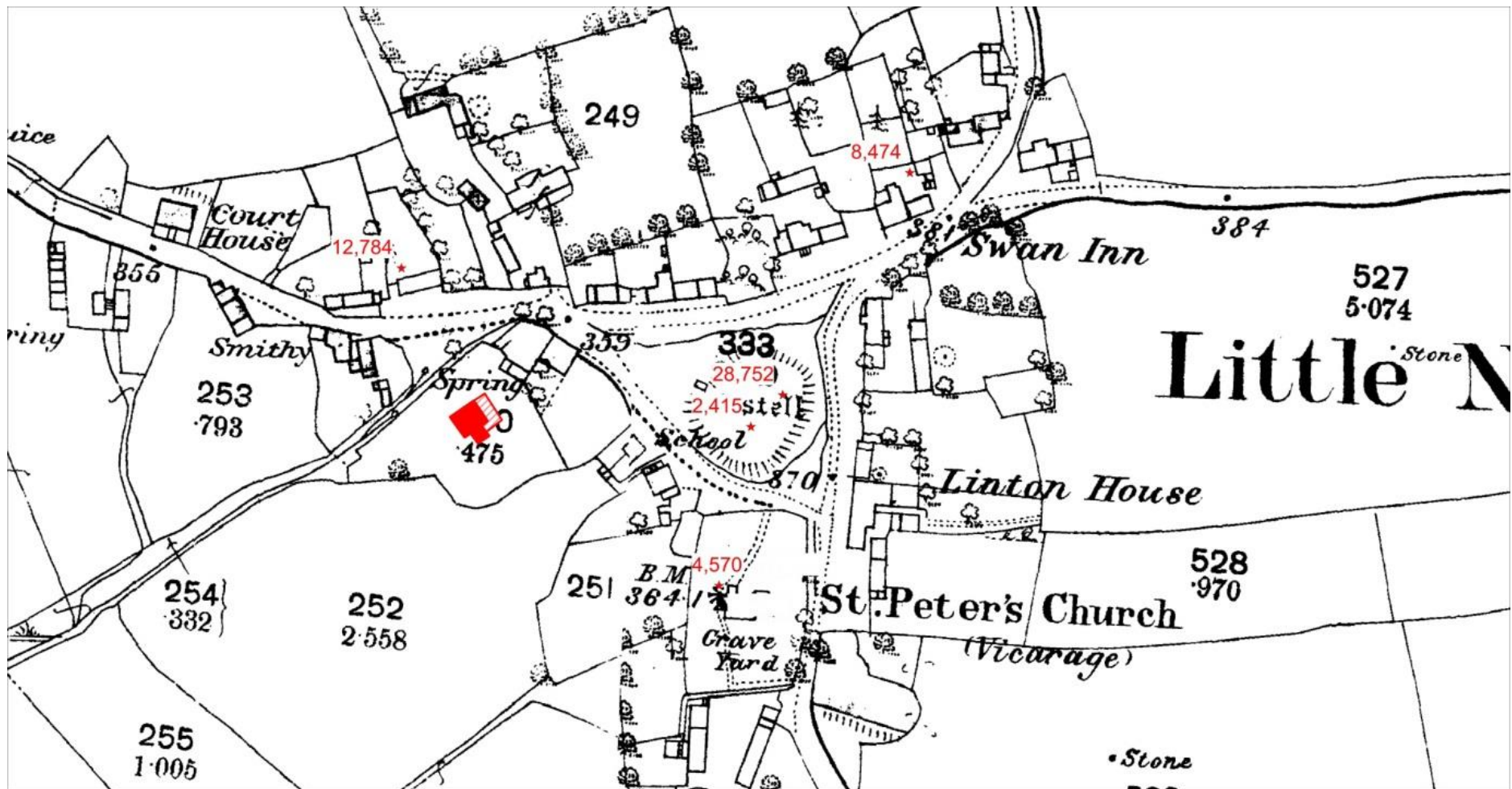


Figure 4: Extract of the 1st edition OS 25'' map published in 1889 showing historical and archaeological sites in the vicinity of Plum Tree House (coloured red) and its proposed extension (shaded red)

2. THE SITE

2.1 Location and Topography

- 2.1.1 Little Newcastle is a small settlement approximately 3.5 east of the village of Letterston and 2.5kms west of Puncteston (Figure 1).
- 2.1.2 The site is level and located on the east side of Plum Tree House on land that (due to its boggy nature) had previously been improved by former owners. This improvement included removing the topsoil and subsoil and depositing a layer of stone aggregate on top of the natural ground.
- 2.1.3 The underlying bedrock is the Ogof Hen Formation - Sandstone rocks formed in the Ordovician Period.

British Geological Survey: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>
- accessed 27/01/2016

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 2.2.1 The 1844 tithe map (Figure 3) for Little Newcastle shows the development area to be within field number 215 consisting of a house and two plots of land (Figure 4). The smaller of the two plots presumably being the garden mentioned in the apportionment schedule.
- 2.2.2 The apportionment schedule for the 1844 tithe describes plot 215 as 'House, garden and burgage'; the occupier a Stephan Owens and the landowner as John Harding Harries and Jane Davies.
- 2.2.3 The Dyfed Historic Environment Record (HER) records 5 sites within 150m of the development area (Figure 4, Table 2).
- 2.2.4 Approximately 60m to the east of the development lies the village green. This area of green marks the former position of a medieval motte (PRN 2415) that was destroyed in the 1960s. A motte is a type of artificial defensive mound that would have been topped with a wooden or stone structure known as a keep. It measures approximately 30m by 48m. There are traces of an inner camp on the west side and the remains of a well.
- 2.2.5 St Peter's Church (PRN 4570) is situated c. 95m SE of the development site. The church was completely rebuilt in the 19th century but its origins are medieval.
- 2.2.6 The Royal Commission for Ancient Historic Monuments Wales records that in c. 1200 it was granted by Adam de la Rupe to Pill Priory, along with three others.
- 2.2.7 The medieval building consists of a double nave and chancel, the north aisle demolished but replaced during nineteenth century restorations. The fabric was repaired in 1806 and between 1842-43, with major restoration taking place by E.H. Lingen Barker, Diocesan Architect, between 1870 and 1875 including the addition of the porch in 1870. The interior retains the twelfth century font and a memorial plaque to the Symmons family.

PRN	Site Name	Summary	Period	Grid reference
2415	New Castle	Medieval motte in the centre of the village and surrounded by roads. It shelves towards the west. It measures from north to south 30m and east to west 48m. There are traces of an inner camp on the west and remains of a well.	Medieval	SM98012895
4570	St Peter's Church	Medieval parish church, entirely rebuilt in the 19 th century. It was granted to Pill Priory in c. 1200. Rectangular churchyard immediately south of motte (PRN 2415) which was destroyed in the 1960s.	Early medieval/ medieval	SM98012890
8474	Swan Inn	Former public house	Post-medieval	SM98062903
12784	Little Newcastle	Manor house; grange	Medieval	SM979290
28752	WWII defensive trench	1940-43 Civil Defence shelter trench now demolished. It was a zig-zag plan trench approximately 30m in length dug in village green.	Modern	SM98022896

Table 2: Archaeological and historical sites recorded on the Dyfed HER within 150m of the proposed development; shown in Figure 4

3. WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork

- 3.1.1 A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks at the site which had the potential to expose, damage or destroy underlying archaeological remains. The groundworks involved reducing an area measuring approximately 12m by 8m.
- 3.1.2 Ground reduction work was undertaken by the site contractors using a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a 0.6m wide toothed bucket.
- 3.1.3 All archaeological deposits revealed during the groundworks were examined and recorded to an appropriate level.
- 3.1.4 Recording of all archaeological features or deposits conformed to best current professional practice and was carried out in accordance with the Recording Manual² used by DAT Archaeological Services.
- 3.1.5 The work followed the Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief as laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014) and adhered to their code of conduct (CIfA 2014).

3.2 Timetabling of Fieldwork

- 3.2.1 The watching brief took place on the 26th March 2019. The weather during the day was fine and dry.

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.

4. RESULTS

- 4.1 The development site measured approximately 12m by 8m. The site was reduced by c. 0.35m in the southern half but less in the northern half (Photos 1 & 2).
- 4.2 The site consisted of made-up ground – a deposit of stone aggregate and dust - which lay directly on top of natural ground (Photo 3).
- 4.3 All of the made-up ground was removed from the southern half of the site but construction levels dictated that some of the stone aggregate could be left in-situ in the northern half of the site.
- 4.4 The exposed natural was a damp, orange-brown, silty-clay with some small stone present (Photo 4).
- 4.5 No significant archaeological deposits or features were recorded during the watching brief.

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 A watching brief was carried out during groundworks associated with the construction of an extension to the property Plum House, Little Newcastle, Pembrokeshire. The development site lies in an area with an identified potential for archaeological remains of possible medieval date 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 excavating an area approximately 12m by 8m, which constituted the footprint of the extension. The area was excavated using a 360° mechanical digger fitted with a toothed bucket.
- 5.3 The watching brief identified that the topsoil and subsoil had been removed in the recent past and a 0.35 thick deposit of stone aggregate deposited on top of the natural ground. The land is inherently wet; this was therefore a means of providing a stable ground surface.
- 5.4 The exposed natural ground consisted of orange-brown, silty clay containing some small stones.
- 5.5 No significant archaeological deposits or features were identified within the development area. However, it is still possible that significant archaeological remains could still lie within the vicinity of the development area.



Photo 1: View south after completion of ground reduction works (1m scale).



Photo 2: View north after completion of ground reduction works (1m scale).



Photo 3: View west, showing depth of made-up ground that was removed (1m scale).



Photo 4: View north, showing the natural ground beneath the deposit of made-up ground (1m scale).

6. SOURCES

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>

Bibliography

Brown, D, 2011, *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*, Archaeological Archives Forum

CIfA 2014, *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, December 2014

CIfA 2014, *Code of Conduct*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, December 2014

Websites

British Geological Survey: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>
- accessed 27/01/2016

7. PROJECT ARCHIVE

Project Number: FS18-061

ERN: 117959

18 photographs (9 Jpegs and 9 Tiffs)

**PLUM TREE HOUSE, LITTLE NEWCASTLE,
PEMBROKESHIRE**

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Mawrth 2019
March 2019

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

Hubert Wilson

Swydd / Position: **Archaeologist DAT Archaeological Services**

Llofnod / Signature  Date: 05/04/2019

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: 05/04/2019

*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*

